

Inquiry to fix blame for £200m losses by the Crown Agents

A committee of inquiry into individual responsibility for losses of at least £200m by the Crown Agents is being set up by the Prime Minister. There will be an

emergency debate in the Commons on Monday on the Fay report, which was published yesterday. This details the financial mismanagement up to the property market collapse early in the 1970s.

Emergency debate on Monday

By Malcolm Brown
Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, has set up a committee of inquiry under Sir Carl Aarvold, former Recorder of London, to investigate the conduct of individual responsibility for the losses of the Crown Agents, now running at £212m.

This follows the publication yesterday of two reports on the Agents which chronicle saga of financial mismanagement, personal empire building, and failure by the Ministry for Overseas Development, the Treasury and the Bank of England to put a stop to the affair before the property market collapse of the early 1970s, brought about the disintegration of the Crown Agents' speculative financial dealings.

A three-hour emergency debate on the Fay report is to be held in the Commons on Monday.

Sir Carl's report, which will be studied by, among others, the Director of Public Prosecutions, could lead to criminal and civil actions.

Charges of corruption are pending against Mr Sidney Finley, a financier whose companies became involved with the Agents, and had been laid against Mr Bernard Wheately, the Crown Agents' former sterling money market manager who, at the time of his death in July 1977, was awaiting trial.

Mr Sibley, the Attorney-General, disclosed yesterday that civil actions had been initiated against the estate of the late Mr Wheately, Mr Finley and a third man, claiming the return of money.

The sum "involved" was "going on £50m", Mr Sibley said, adding that about £50,000 of this was in respect of Mr Wheately.

Despite vigorous protests from the Opposition, Mrs Judith Hart, the Minister for Overseas Development, defended her decision to allow the Aarvold inquiry to proceed.

After making her statement on the affair to the House of Commons, Mrs Hart said there was no question of a cover-up.

The terms of reference of the Aarvold inquiry are: "In the light of the report of the Fay Committee to assess, the

Leading article,
High risk ventures,
Chronicle of catastrophe,
Summary of reports,

Mr Challis would have us believe that he did not influence the courses taken by the market managers, and said to us more than once that he had not ever ordered that a loan be granted.

"We do not believe him."

The characteristics of the finance directorate under Mr Challis are described by the Fay report as having included unjustified risk-taking; a lack of regulation and control; and an aversion to taking advice; secretiveness; a low standard of commercial sense; and a disregard of choice of advice.

To the finance directorate the previous government of secret had the result that no one but Mr Challis could comprehend the state of affairs as a whole, and he at no time shared the complete picture with the chairman. With secrecy went a rooted disinclination to take advice unless forced to.

Sir Claude Hayes, the report confirmed the own-account dealings situation. Sir Claude, who appeared as a "forbidding" man to his subordinates, should, however, have known what was happening.

... The responsibility for the way in which the own-account activities developed rests fairly and squarely on Mr Challis because he conducted them and on Sir Claude Hayes because he knew or ought to have known what was going on.

The Fay report, commenting on Christmas gifts made by Mr William Stern, the proprietor of a chain of stores, said this was an instance of Crown Agents staff accepting favours which might be thought to place them under an obligation to a person with whom they had no deal in their official capacity.

"These gifts were in our view unfortunate."

Sir Claude Hayes, in an interview on BBC television last night, said: "For the banking collapse which we suffered in 1974 I take the blame. There is no mistake about that."

But he added: "I was not the expert. I did not have the expertise. My responsibility was to see we had the right expertise. But I did not succeed in getting that."

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.



At least four people were killed by this landslip in a suburb of Göteborg, Sweden, which destroyed about 40 houses on Wednesday night after heavy rainfall.

Cairo talks delayed in Arab peace move

Cairo, Dec 1.—Egypt today confirmed an American announcement last night that the Cairo peace talks had been postponed to December 14, and retreated from plans to invite "men" to his subordinates, should, however, have known what was happening.

... The responsibility for the way in which the own-account activities developed rests fairly and squarely on Mr Challis because he conducted them and on Sir Claude Hayes because he knew or ought to have known what was going on.

The Fay report, commenting on Christmas gifts made by Mr William Stern, the proprietor of a chain of stores, said this was an instance of Crown Agents staff accepting favours which might be thought to place them under an obligation to a person with whom they had no deal in their official capacity.

"These gifts were in our view unfortunate."

Sir Claude Hayes, in an interview on BBC television last night, said: "For the banking collapse which we suffered in 1974 I take the blame. There is no mistake about that."

But he added: "I was not the expert. I did not have the expertise. My responsibility was to see we had the right expertise. But I did not succeed in getting that."

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968 to 1974.

Mr Challis, the Fay report says, imposed his authority and brooked no interference.

The Fay report, which chronicles the build-up and final collapse of the Crown Agents' so-called "own-account" operations — financial transaction especially in property and finance deals aimed at making money for the organization itself rather than the Agents' principles — is highly critical of two men in particular: Mr Alan Challis, former director of finance of the Crown Agents, and Sir Claude Hayes, chairman of the Crown Agents from 1968

HOME NEWS

National insurance rates rise will favour self-employed

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

National insurance contributions for people earning £120 a week or more will rise by £1.76 a week in April at the start of the Government's new earnings-related pension scheme. People on average earnings of £80 a week will pay 60p a week more, but the self-employed and those contracted out of the state pension scheme will pay less.

The lower earnings limit, below which contributions are not compulsory, will rise to £17.50 and the earnings limit to £120, roughly seven times the pension rates. The present contribution limits are £15 and £105 a week.

Employees are expected to pay more under the new contribution rates, which will go up in spite of hopes that successive surpluses in the National Insurance Fund would make further increases unnecessary. The Government Actuary's report accompanying the order laid before Parliament yesterday says that nevertheless there will be a deficit of £25m in 1978-79.

But the report, which has led the Government to decide that the rates must be raised, is based on several assumptions that are open to question. On Treasury instructions, the Government Actuary assumed that the number of unemployed would rise from an average of 1,370,000 in 1977-78 to 1,470,000 in 1978-79, both excluding school-leavers.

The second assumption is that earnings will increase between July this year and July next year at the annual rate of 10 per cent, in line with government guidelines. The third assumption is that prices will rise by 6 per cent between last month and November 1978, and that pensions will rise later by 10 per cent and short-term benefits by 6 per cent next November.

Last year, on similar assumptions about prices, the Government Actuary assumed that pensions would rise last month by 8 per cent and short-term benefits by 6.3 per cent respectively. In fact, prices rose more than that in the year ended November last month, and all benefits rose last month by 14 per cent.

However, Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, announced yesterday that the Government Actuary's report had led to the

Concern at convictions in Grunwick cases

By a Staff Reporter

Lawyers acting for the Association of Professionals, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) are growing increasingly concerned about what they regard as an abnormally high conviction rate among pickets charged with offences connected with demonstrations outside the Grunwick factory in north London.

Last night defence solicitors, who are contracted out because their occupational pension schemes are recognized as providing benefits at least as good as the state scheme, will pay 6.5 per cent on earnings up to £17.50, but 4 per cent on earnings between that and £120 a week. Their employers will pay 5.5 per cent of earnings up to £17.50 and £120 a week.

About nine million employees are expected to be contracted out, and the effect of the new rates will be to reduce the national insurance contribution paid by each person on £105 a week by £1.40. An employee earning £80 a week will pay 96p a week less.

The flat-rate contribution for self-employed men will drop from £2.66 to £1.90, which will also be the new rate for self-employed women, whose present flat rate is £2.55 a week.

The earnings-related contribution rate for the self-employed is to be reduced from 8 per cent to 5 per cent, in recognition of the fact that the self-employed cannot get an earnings-related pension in retirement.

The profit levels on which they pay earnings-related contributions will be reduced at the lower level from £1.750 a year to £2,000 a year and at the limit from £5,500 to £6,250. The effect will be to reduce contributions for men with annual profits of £950 by £39.52 a year at the bottom rate, and by £127.02 a year at the top rate of £6,250 profits. The reduction for self-employed women will be £5.72 less.

Report by the Government Actuary on the draft of the Social Security (Contributions, Retiring) (No. 2) Order 1977 (Command 7036, Stationery Office, 35p).

Children 'at risk' at Christmas

Christmas is a time when children are set on the path to alcoholism, the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches says in a warning to parents.

Many children have their first drink at Christmas, the council states. "Parents should be warned not to give alcohol to anyone under age."

New Head of the Home Civil Service is regarded as a safe choice

Top Whitehall post for Sir Ian Bancroft

By Peter Hennessy
Sir Ian Bancroft, Permanent Secretary to the Department of the Environment, is to succeed Sir Douglas Allen as Head of the Home Civil Service.

A statement from 10 Downing Street indicated that he would be Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department, thereby ending, temporarily, speculation that it might disappear as a ministry in the wake of a fundamental reorganization of central Government by the Prime Minister.

Mr Callaghan, who shares the widespread dissatisfaction in Whitehall and Westminster with the shape and scope of the department, particularly its control of manpower and efficiency, will issue his reply to a critical report from the Commons Expenditure Committee in the form of a White Paper in January.

Sir Ian, who will be 55 this month, has been front-runner for the post since he became second permanent secretary to the department in 1972. He moved to the Department of the Environment as permanent secretary two years later.

He is regarded in Whitehall as the safe choice. The appointment is seen as a sign that the Prime Minister's well known caution may have overcome his original desire for a more far-reaching change in the structure of government, at least until after the next election.

Another factor in the choice

may have been the need to reassure the Civil Service trade union whose remuneration on a spectrum of issues, particularly pay, is great.

Sir Ian is well remembered by the staff associations from his earlier period at the department. Previously, he had enhanced his reputation as first establishment officer in the giant Department of the Environment between 1970 and 1972.

He is the first establishment and personnel specialist to be appointed to the post. Sir Douglas Allen, like Lord Armstrong of Sanderson before him, was primarily an economic adviser by background.

Sir Ian is expected to take up his post on January 1. His salary of £18,883 will rise to £20,383.

No successor has been named at the Department of the Environment. Sir John Garlick, second permanent secretary in charge of the constitution unit.

A moment that illustrates Sir Ian Bancroft's method stands out in the blurred memory of last year's hearings on the Civil Service by the Commons Expenditure Committee. Questioned by an exasperated back-bencher MP about the accountability of the large part of his briefwork at the Department of the Environment, Sir Ian leaned back in his chair and murmured, almost to himself, "I love parliamentary control", emphasizing the word "love".

Sir Ian, who will be 55 this month, has been front-runner for the post since he became second permanent secretary to the department in 1972. He moved to the Department of the Environment as permanent secretary two years later.

He is regarded in Whitehall as the safe choice. The appointment is seen as a sign that the Prime Minister's well known caution may have overcome his original desire for a more far-reaching change in the structure of government, at least until after the next election.

Another factor in the choice

may have been the need to reassure the Civil Service trade union whose remuneration on a spectrum of issues, particularly pay, is great.

Sir Ian is well remembered by the staff associations from his earlier period at the department. Previously, he had enhanced his reputation as first establishment officer in the giant Department of the Environment between 1970 and 1972.

He is the first establishment and personnel specialist to be appointed to the post. Sir Douglas Allen, like Lord Armstrong of Sanderson before him, was primarily an economic adviser by background.

Sir Ian is expected to take up his post on January 1. His salary of £18,883 will rise to £20,383.

No successor has been named at the Department of the Environment. Sir John Garlick, second permanent secretary in charge of the constitution unit.

A moment that illustrates Sir Ian Bancroft's method stands out in the blurred memory of last year's hearings on the Civil Service by the Commons Expenditure Committee. Questioned by an exasperated back-bencher MP about the accountability of the large part of his briefwork at the Department of the Environment, Sir Ian leaned back in his chair and murmured, almost to himself, "I love parliamentary control", emphasizing the word "love".

Sir Ian, who will be 55 this month, has been front-runner for the post since he became second permanent secretary to the department in 1972. He moved to the Department of the Environment as permanent secretary two years later.

He is regarded in Whitehall as the safe choice. The appointment is seen as a sign that the Prime Minister's well known caution may have overcome his original desire for a more far-reaching change in the structure of government, at least until after the next election.

Another factor in the choice

may have been the need to reassure the Civil Service trade union whose remuneration on a spectrum of issues, particularly pay, is great.

Sir Ian is well remembered by the staff associations from his earlier period at the department. Previously, he had enhanced his reputation as first establishment officer in the giant Department of the Environment between 1970 and 1972.

He is the first establishment and personnel specialist to be appointed to the post. Sir Douglas Allen, like Lord Armstrong of Sanderson before him, was primarily an economic adviser by background.

Sir Ian is expected to take up his post on January 1. His salary of £18,883 will rise to £20,383.

No successor has been named at the Department of the Environment. Sir John Garlick, second permanent secretary in charge of the constitution unit.

A moment that illustrates Sir Ian Bancroft's method stands out in the blurred memory of last year's hearings on the Civil Service by the Commons Expenditure Committee. Questioned by an exasperated back-bencher MP about the accountability of the large part of his briefwork at the Department of the Environment, Sir Ian leaned back in his chair and murmured, almost to himself, "I love parliamentary control", emphasizing the word "love".

Sir Ian, who will be 55 this month, has been front-runner for the post since he became second permanent secretary to the department in 1972. He moved to the Department of the Environment as permanent secretary two years later.

He is regarded in Whitehall as the safe choice. The appointment is seen as a sign that the Prime Minister's well known caution may have overcome his original desire for a more far-reaching change in the structure of government, at least until after the next election.

Another factor in the choice

Firemen stop picketing soldiers at Bootle

By Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporter

A picker by striking firemen aimed at stopping civilian supplies reaching firefighting troops at Bootle on Mersey, was lifted yesterday after representations by senior union officials.

It started on Wednesday outside a former maternity home to which 100 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, had been transferred from a barracks criticized for its lack of comfort.

The Merseyside brigade committee of the Fire Brigades Union voted to reverse the decision it had taken earlier in the day to continue the picker. It thereby brought its members at Bootle into line with the union's policy of not interfering with troops.

Its decision came on the eve of a crucial meeting between the TUC finance and general purposes committee and FBU leaders at which the firemen will press for a campaign by unions against the Government's insistence on a limit of 10 per cent on pay rises in the public sector.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

He gets on well with

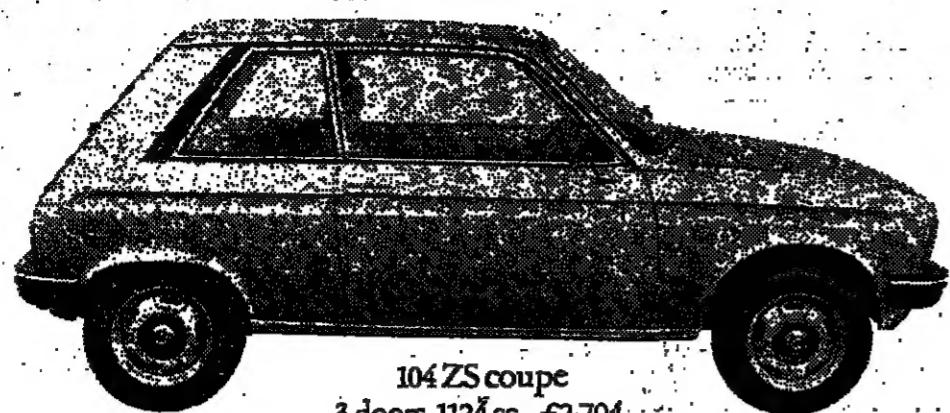
Prime Minister, who

is serving as

Minister of

Exchequer.

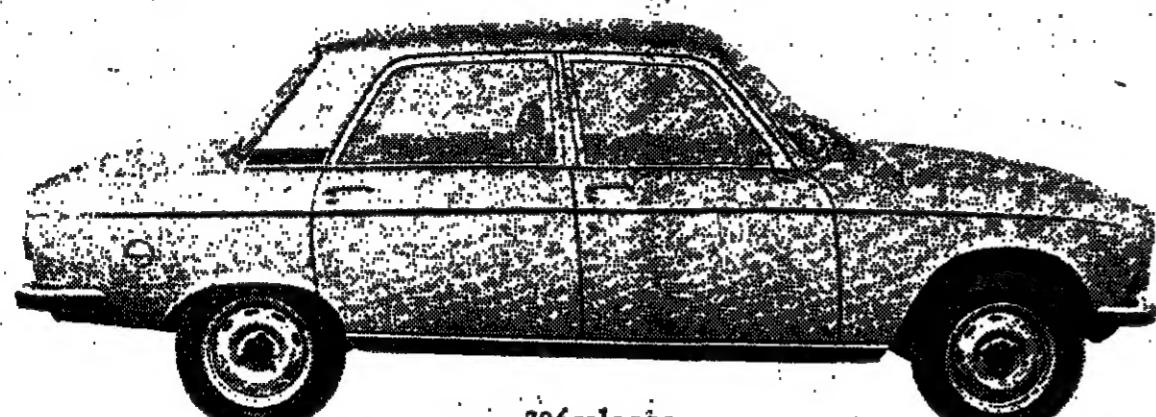
Peugeot 1978 line-up, quality in all shapes and sizes. Available now.



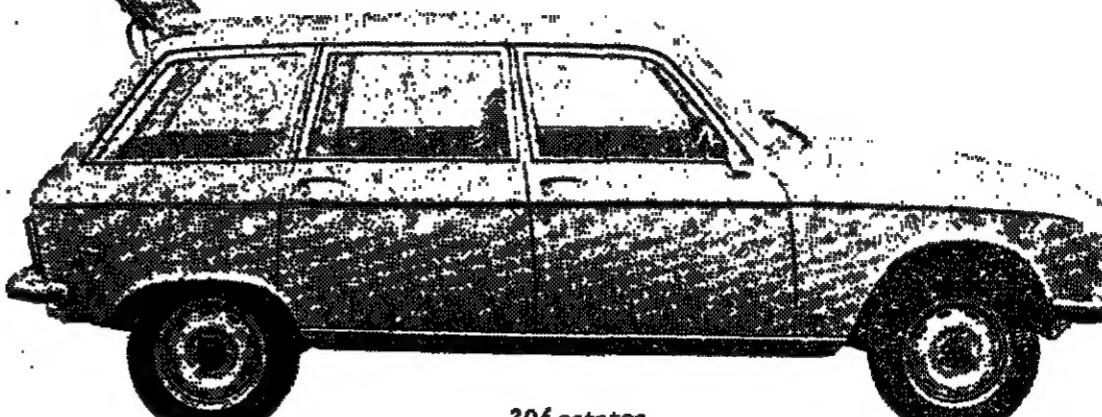
104 ZS coupe
3 doors, 1124 cc - £2,704



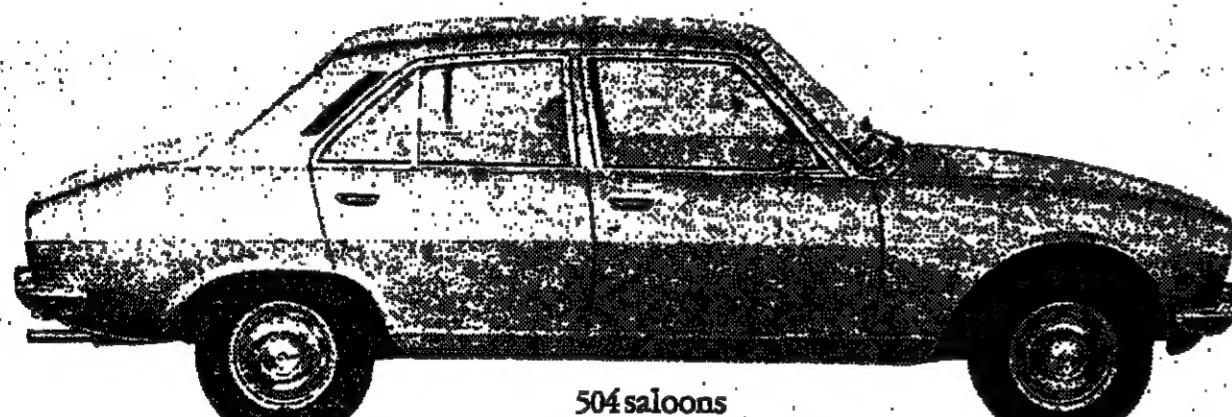
104 five door hatchbacks
GL 954 cc - £2,287
SL 1124 cc - £2,600



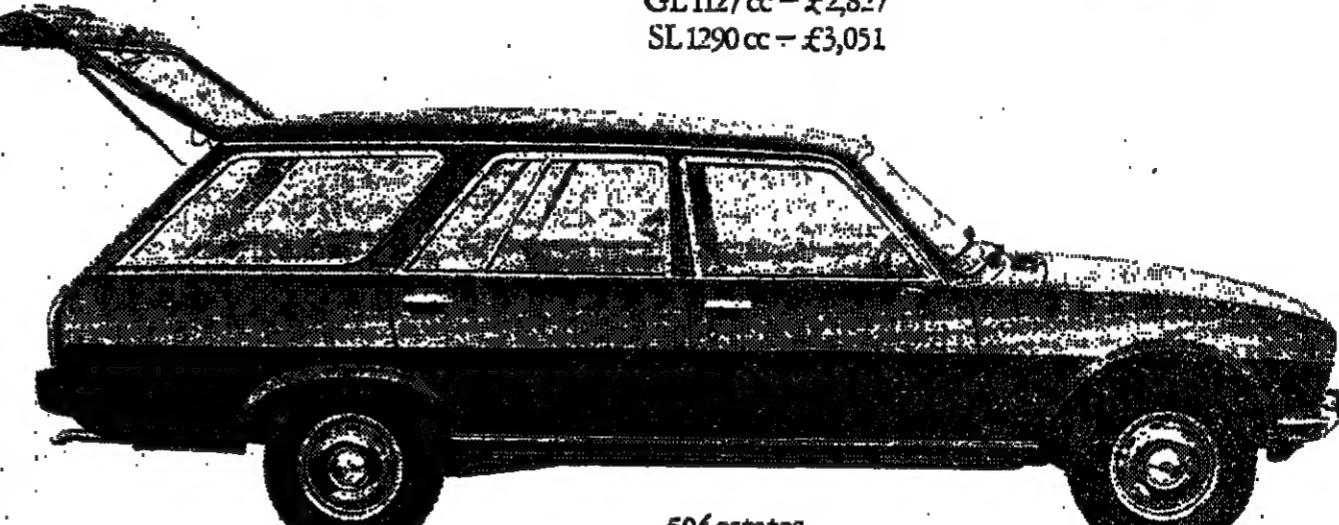
304 saloons
GL 1290 cc - £2,810
SLS 1290 cc - £3,151



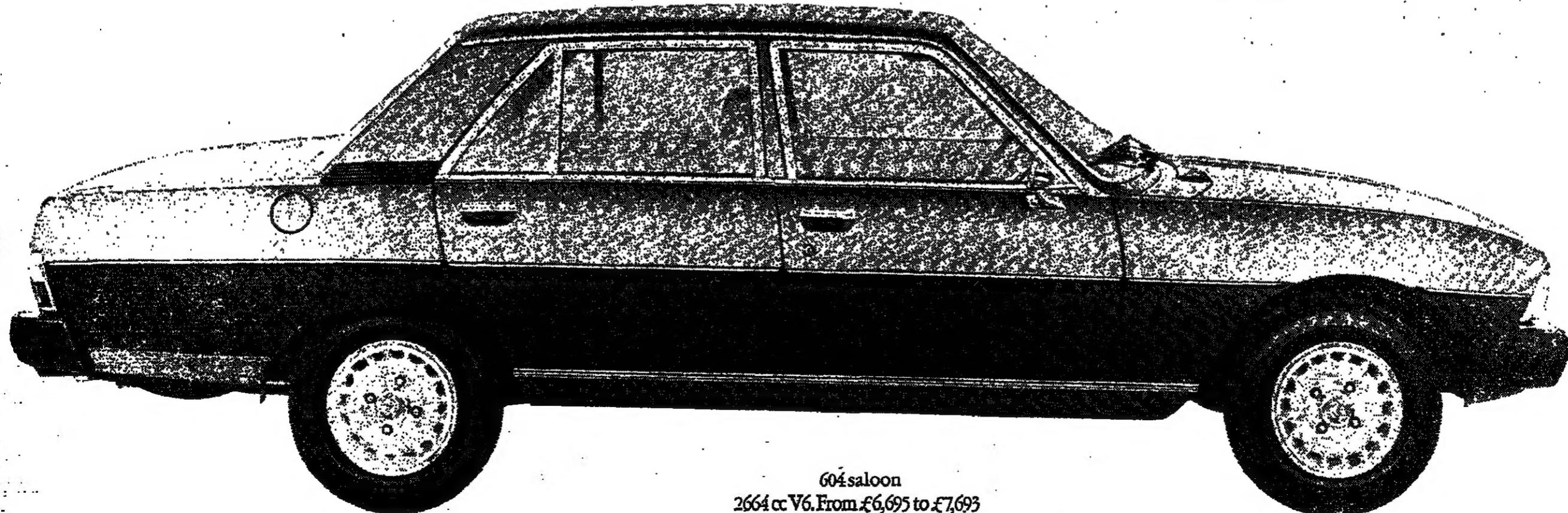
304 estates
GL 1127 cc - £2,827
SL 1290 cc - £3,051



504 saloons
1796 cc-2304 cc. From £3,730 to £5,294
Petrol and Diesel Models



504 estates
1796 cc-2304 cc. From £4,107 to £5,696
Petrol and Diesel Models.
Also Family Estate model with
5 rows of forward facing seats



604 saloon
2664 cc V6. From £6,695 to £7,693

Peugeot present their 1978 range of cars. Whatever your motoring needs and preferences, there's a model to suit you.

From the practical and economical 3 and 5 door 104 Hatchbacks through to the luxurious 604 saloon.

And they're all built for strength, with that built-in quality and reliability for which Peugeot have become world-famous.

Prices are extremely competitive - compare

them with the rest of the market. Peugeot technical advancement means that all models are economical to run, whether they use 2 star, 4 star or diesel fuel.

What's more, you'll only have to service your Peugeot once a year (or every 10,000 miles) with an oil change every 6 months (or 5,000 miles)*. And Peugeot strength is right behind you with a straightforward 12 months unlimited mileage guarantee.

*Automatic transmission available on 504 GL/TI Saloons, GL and Family Estates and 604 models. Factory fitted sun roof available on most models. *Major service intervals all diesel models 6,000 miles, with oil change at 10,000 miles. Recommended retail prices including VAT, car tax and seat belts, excluding delivery charges and number plates. Prices correct at the time of going to press.

I'd like to know more about the

- 104 ZS coupe and five door hatchbacks
- 304 saloons and estates
- 504 saloons and estates
- 504 diesels
- 604 saloons

(not appropriate boxes)

Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Customer Relations,

Peugeot Automobiles (UK) Ltd.,

PO Box 2, Liverpool L4 1UR.

Tel: 01-993 2331 (London Office).

329

PEUGEOT

World famous for strength

HOME NEWS

Basic payment of £1,000 a year proposed for councillors, with up to £3,000 more in some cases

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

A senior councillor with a large local authority could earn up to £4,000 a year under proposals published yesterday by a committee of inquiry set up by the Government.

The committee, chaired by Mr Derek Robinson, an Oxford don, recommends that every councillor on the 521 main local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland should receive a flat payment of £1,000 a year for his or her role as an elected member and to cover certain expenses.

In addition, senior members, such as main committee chairmen, would receive special responsibility payments of up to £3,000 a year.

The present system of reimbursing councillors by paying a maximum of £11 a day with attendance allowance should be abolished, the committee says. The new arrangements would include the reintroduction of a financial loss allowance.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that the Government would consider the proposals before discussing them with the local authority associations.

If implemented in full, the cost of the proposed system is estimated to be about £30m. The cost of the attendance allowances in 1975-76 was £3.4m, but the committee says they have been unchanged for four years, and that an uprating of the cost would give a figure of about £20m.

Mr Robinson said yesterday that the £30m cost, which would be the taxpayer, should be seen as fall on either the ratepayer or a proportion of the total cost of local government of about 15.000m.

The committee, which produced a unanimous report, was convinced that a strong, healthy, viable structure of local government was essential to maintain democracy.

Under the proposed changes some councillors would receive more, and some less, but the total is outside the Government's 10 per cent guideline on pay. The committee recog-

nizes that because of economic constraints the Government might find it necessary to introduce the scheme initially with a lower basic payment and a reduced scale of special responsibility payments.

As a result of reorganization the number of councillors has been reduced from 46,000 to 26,000, and a survey by the committee shows that on average they spend 79 hours a month on council activities compared with 52 hours in 1964. The survey found that three quarters of councillors are economically active, the same proportion as for the population as a whole.

Half of all councillors are employees, just over a fifth are self-employed, and almost a sixth are retired. About 1 per cent are unemployed or sick. The committee found that manual workers are still statistically greatly underrepresented.

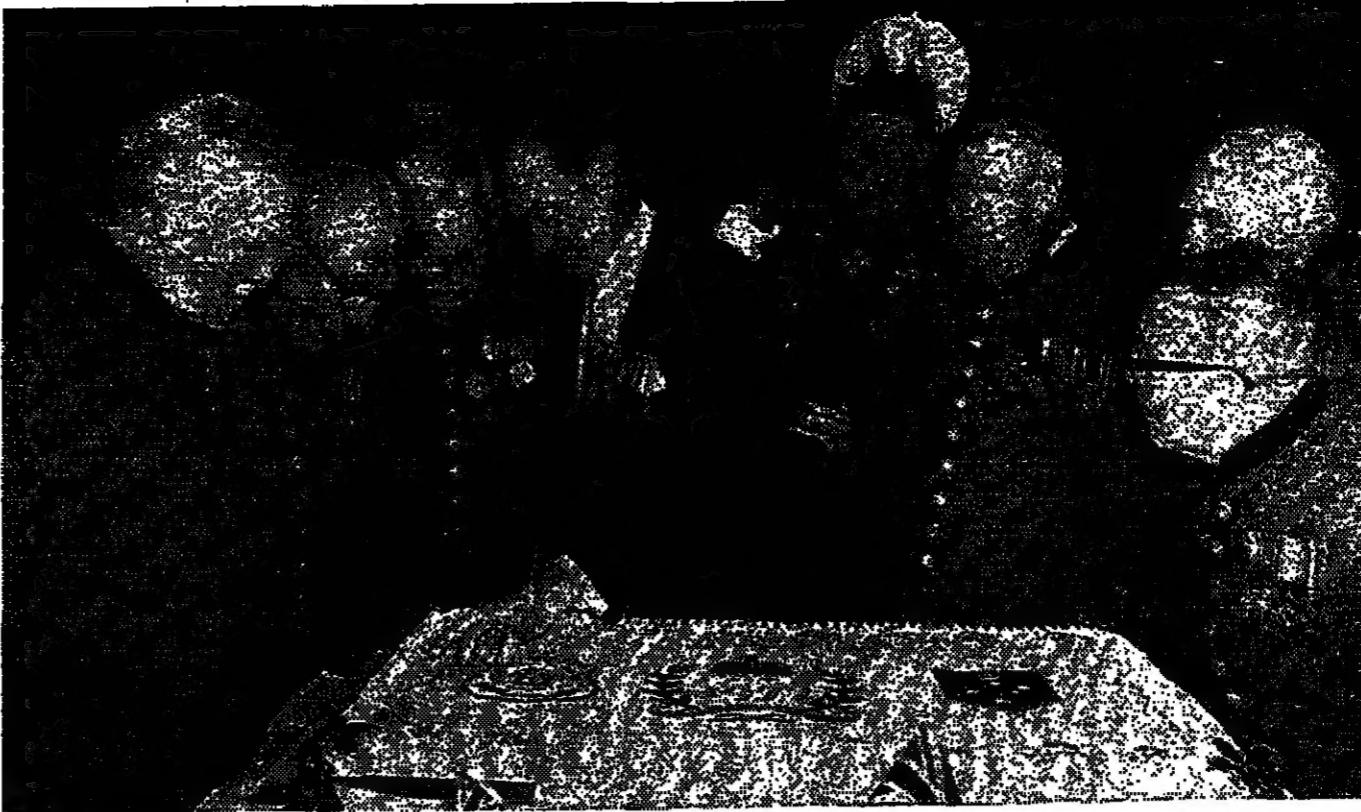
Mr Robinson said the committee had rejected the idea of full-time salaries for councillors. "That would present too great a threat to the long established voluntary principle that plays such an important part in British public life."

The report recommends the abolition of the present attendance allowance system because it has been widely misinterpreted and gives rise to the "undeniable suspicion that it is a malpractice".

The recommendation of £1,000 a year for all councillors is made "because we believe that the time has come when councillors should receive a payment in recognition of their role as elected representatives of the community". The sum is also designed to cover expenses such as telephones, postage and stationery, but not separate

Leading article, page 17

Population band	No. of cllrs (special responsibility appts)	Cost of basic payments £'000	Cost of special responsibility payments £'000	Total cost £'000
Under 50,000	1,625 (194)	1,625	145	1,770
50-100,000	9,457 (790)	9,457	790	10,247
100-400,000	10,538 (1,021)	10,538	1,531	12,069
Over 400,000	4,904 (428)	4,904	1,284	6,188
	26,524 (2,433)	26,524	3,751	30,275



Mr John Rossiter, Agent-General in London for Victoria, with a Christmas cake he presented to Chelsea pensioners yesterday on behalf of ex-Servicemen in the state.

Defence chief appeals over Services' pay

By Our Air Correspondent

The chiefs of staff have taken "all the steps that are open to them" to make wage difficulties for the three Services thoroughly known to those who make recommendations about their pay, Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron, Chief of the Defence Staff, said in London yesterday.

Speaking at an Air League luncheon he said he was constantly struck by the quality of professionalism among all ranks. But successive defence reductions and the pay policy had placed great strain on the individual Serviceman.

"He has seen his living standards fall as prices have risen and as pay has been rigidly restrained. At the same

time he has often had to face extra "duties"—an allusion to the Servicemen who are taking over the duties of the striking firemen, with whom their pay compares unfavourably.

Sir Neil said the chiefs of the defence staff were working "single-mindedly" to get military salaries back to a level with their civilian counterparts, as the Government had promised.

Air Force salaries had in recent years been comparable with civilian rates for only a short period during 1975. It is significant that Sir Neil should make his appeal in a week when a report from the commanding officer of the RAF West Drayton made public the fact that many of his men "moonlight" in outside jobs to make up their pay.

absent without leave and was warned that he would be dismissed if it happened again. It did not, and in February, when his six-months "trial" ended, the headmaster recommended that his appointment should be extended.

The recommendation said: "Mr Chandler's knowledge of chemistry is excellent. He is also useful to us and certainly is in better psychological shape than he was last September."

But in March Mr Chandler overslept one morning and failed to turn up for work that day, although he telephoned to the school to say he would be in later. The next day the headmaster recommended his dismissal and Mr Chandler was given one month's notice on the ground of his mental health. Mr Larry Gorin, legal and welfare rights officer for Mind, who represented Mr Chandler at the tribunal, said yesterday that the real reason for the dismissal was discipline but that he had been dismissed as a psychiatric issue. The tribunal had accepted that argument by its ruling.

Mr Chandler, a finance clerk for a private company, said yesterday that it was an important principle that people who had been in hospital with psychiatric difficulties in the past could not be discriminated against on that ground in future.

The ruling is expected to affect another hearing, which was adjourned in Liverpool this week until January. Mr O'Brien was dismissed by the Friends' Assurance Company after disclosing his past history of psychiatric illness.

Mental illness man must get job back

By Pat Healy

Surrey Social Services Correspondent

The Surrey County Council has been ordered to re-employ a temporary employee, dismissed on the ground of mental illness, in a test case regarded as a victory by Mind, the mental health organization. It believes the ruling by an industrial tribunal at Brighton, announced yesterday, means that employers cannot dismiss employees because of past history, but must prove that mental illness is affecting the ability of the individual to do the job.

The council, which has been ordered to re-employ Mr Paul O'Brien, aged 24, within two months in a job at the same level and salary and to pay him compensation for loss of work, declined to comment yesterday. All future action, including the possibility of an appeal, was said to be under consideration.

The tribunal ruled that Mr O'Brien had been unfairly dismissed as a laboratory technician at Horley Comprehensive School because proper medical evidence had not been sought and there had been no consultation with him. The decision, which was unanimous, effectively means that employers must follow proper procedures when they intend to dismiss people on the ground of mental ill health, as they are obliged to do in other cases.

Because of his medical history Mr O'Brien was initially hired for six months, subject to review. At first he was stated to be an excellent employee and the school and headmaster were satisfied with his work. In January last he was scolded for breaking fishing trip. The bench agreed with Mr Owen Thomas, QC, for the defence, that there was no case to answer because the prosecution had not proved that the fish were caught in a banned area. The defence was granted £610 costs.

Spanish skippers fined: Two Spanish trawler skippers who fished in British waters without licences inside Britain and European Community territorial limits were each fined £10,000 and had their catch confiscated at Milford Haven Magistrates' Court, Dyfed, yesterday. Spain is not a member of the EEC. Javier Ajuria Abotiz, aged 34, and Julian Ajuria Abotiz, aged 26, admitted that they had taken a chance inside the limits when their ships, which were fishing as a pair, were detained by the fisheries protection vessel Dromeda on Wednesday.

They were ordered to pay £100 costs and £15 interest on their fees and their ships were ordered to be detained until the penalties were paid.

Transport workers' leaders, who influence within the TUC is strong, are also seeking a joint standing commission on unemployment to be headed by the Prime Minister.

Mr Peter Millstet, QC, for Mr and Mrs Willis, said yesterday that the parties had reached a settlement. The individual gifts under the will, including farms to Mr Brown and a £7,000 bungalow to Mrs Willis, would remain.

The residue, about £150,000 and bequeathes, would be divided, leaving his only fifth share. The other four-fifths would be held on trust for Mr Brown and his wife and four children until a will made with an earlier will made by Mr

couple give up £120,000 in will case

A couple who maintained that evil gossip forced them to close their nursing home after a patient had left them more than £150,000 agreed yesterday to give up nearly four-fifths of the money to the man's family.

Mr James Willis and his wife, Margaret, formerly of Clifton Drive South, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire, had asked the High Court to uphold the law in favour of Mr William O'Gorman, who died in their nursing home in Lytham St Annes in February, 1975.

Mr William Rowland Brown, Mr Ingham's nephew, of Ghyll Hall Street, Folkestone, Kent, conceded the case, consenting that the signature on the will was a forgery.

Mr Peter Millstet, QC, for Mr and Mrs Willis, said yesterday that the parties had reached a settlement. The individual gifts under the will, including farms to Mr Brown and a £7,000 bungalow to Mrs Willis, would remain.

The TUC must exempt shorter working week agreements from the 12-month rule and any other restraint. Reduced working hours are the most direct means of job creation.

TGWU leaders also want early retirement agreements throughout the public sector, and "maximum pressure" on the private sector to prevent redundancies and increase investment.

The TUC and the Labour Party should now promote a massive national campaign on unemployment to make the movement and the nation conscious of the real danger facing us, and to promote and support in every local authority, in every industry and in every firm, all possible employment opportunities. The TUC should also hold talks with the CBI with a view to urgent action to eliminate moonlighting.

The union calls on the Government to undertake a big increase in public expenditure. "Healthy inflation can and must be accelerated through big investment programmes in the National Health Service, the construction industry, and in transport, particularly the road network."

The proposal was part of a seven-point programme unanimously adopted by the TGWU to deal with "our outstanding social, civil and economic malaise". The union says there is frightening evidence that employers and civil servants have come to accept the appalling total of 1,500,000 out of work, and are adjusting to even worse figures.

Transport workers' leaders, who influence within the TUC is strong, are also seeking a joint standing commission on unemployment to be headed by the Prime Minister.

The TGWU executive said last night: "We have over 73,000 school-leavers under 16 years of age who have not had a job in the last four weeks. Thirty per cent of our unemployed are under 19. Civilized values and healthy social attitudes cannot live with this obscenity."

The chief obstacle to the expansion of political education in schools is likely to be the fear that it will encourage pupils to take political action, according to a Hansard Society working party on political education. It insists nevertheless that teaching pupils skills relevant to political action is an essential part of political literacy.

The working party of 13 members, chaired by Professor Bernard Crick, head of the department of politics and sociology at Birkbeck College, London, has just completed a draft report based on the findings of a three-year research project into political education, financed by a £20,000 grant from the Nuffield Foundation. A similar grant was given to fund a parallel research project at York University, under Professor Ian Lister. A report of his findings was published in The Times earlier this week.

The Crick report said if society wanted responsible citizens it would plainly have to tolerate some of the unpredictable inconveniences of action and participation. Schools could and should help make that participation informed and orderly.

Too often what political education already existed in schools was based on an arid constitutional and purely descriptive approach. That was often done out of fear of bias. But some bias was not only probable but, if we were moral beings, also unavoidable.

Part of reaching was to make pupils aware of their own biases, the biases of others, and to alert them to the implications of particular political prejudices or perspectives.

However, the school might have a great effect on how biased were held, whether peacefully and tolerantly or violently and blindly, for example; and whether, if injustice was perceived, the child was equipped to and temperamentally likely to try to do something about it.

The working party recommended basic provision of political education in the common curriculum of all secondary schools. That did not necessarily mean a separate class on politics.

Taxpayers may have to foot IRA funeral bill

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Controversial legal moves are under way in Northern Ireland which, if successful, will mean that the British tax payer will have to pay for the military-style funeral given last year to Mrs Maire Drumm, former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Mrs Drumm, a Belfast woman renowned for her fierce republican oratory, was murdered in October last year by gunmen posing as doctors as she lay in the ward of the Mater Hospital in Belfast. No one has been charged with the killing.

The funeral was one of the most elaborate held in the city, with a procession of more than two thousand mourners led by a traditional IRA colour party. Five men in black berets and dark glasses fired a shot over the tricolor-draped coffin before disappearing into the crowd.

Lawyers acting for Mrs Drumm's husband, James, also a prominent republican, are content that the Government will have to meet the funeral expenses under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1968.

The Northern Ireland Office has denied liability in response to a general compensation claim on behalf of Mr Drumm. But yesterday Mr Paschal O'Hare, a Belfast solicitor, said he would be launching a court case in the new year to recover the funeral expenses.

"I cannot understand why the Government has not already made an offer," he said. "Mrs Drumm was a member of a legitimate organisation when she was shot dead. It was a criminal act."

Lawyers believe that the section of the Act that will play a crucial part in the legal argument when the case comes to court will be that which states: "Regard must be taken of all relevant circumstances, including any provocative or negligent behaviour of the victim."

County advised to sell farms

Derbyshire County Council is being recommended by its policy subcommittee to sell its farmhouses, cottages and smallholdings.

The subcommittee believes they no longer act as a gateway to farming for young people, although the Ministry of Agriculture views the widespread disposal of county council smallholdings as damaging to the industry.

More race advisers

Twelve new race relations employment advisers are to be appointed in the next six months, bringing the total to 26.

Break it up

MASDC-10-30 TWICE WEEKLY TO KUALA LUMPUR MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Less seats and more room than any other DC-10. And there's always someone there when you need them.

*With connections at Kuala Lumpur

Fly with A Touch of Gold

mas
malaysian airline system

25-27, St George St., Hanover Square, London W1. Tel: 01-629-5891/4.

Big devolution issues get past without debate

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

With only four days of the Scotland Bill committee completed, it is clear that devolution legislation will reach the House of Lords with many matters undebated. Mr Foot, Leader of the House, is threatening retribution if the Lords do their constitutional tasks too thoroughly and unduly delay the Bill.

It will not be easy for the Lords to do their duty by the Bill and still please Mr Foot if the pattern now developing continues through the 83 clauses and 17 schedules.

Perhaps more important than the clauses not reached have been the issues that could not be debated where a clause raised points for discussion.

This week, two important groups of Tory frontbench amendments on the executive functions of the assembly and the surveillance of assembly Bills were undebated while time was taken with backbench amendments to the same clauses.

Similarly, the size of the pro-

posed assembly, while the clause on the time of the election and term of office of assembly members went through without debate.

Another debate that never took place was planned for Tuesday night on Liberal proposals to give taxation powers to the Scottish assembly.

Other clauses passed without debate after four days in which the House has reached clause 22, are:

Clause 6, procedure for fixing by-election dates. Clause 7, date of first meeting of Assembly to be determined by Secretary of State.

Clause 8, procedure for assembly, of a presiding officer.

Clause 10, powers and disqualification from assembly membership because of being peer or being ordained as a minister of religion.

Clause 11, disqualification effect to clause 12, procedure for assembly.

Clause 13, effect of affirmation of allegiance.</p

HOME NEWS

MPs say hospital doctors' judgment should be subject to Ombudsman's inquiry

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Against strong arguments from the medical profession, a Commons select committee reviewing hospital patients' complaints has recommended that issues involving a doctor's clinical judgment should be referred to the Health Service Ombudsman (the Ombudsman).

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the move "would be detrimental to patients' treatment. The committee's report could not disprove that such a procedure would not lead to a rash of trivial complaints and produce an adverse defensive attitude among doctors."

Nevertheless, the profession is likely to lose, especially at the top, those which would be more willing to accept a simple, straightforward system of complaint in every hospital. The committee said it expected the BMA and the royal colleges to be intimately concerned in nominating advisers to the commissioner.

There will be consultations with all interested organizations on the proposals. Between 7,000 and 8,000 hospital patients' complaints a year are wholly or partly concerned with a doctor's clinical judgment.

The select committee was asked to consider hospital complaint procedures and their possible reference to the Ombudsman after the medical profession opposed a proposal by the Davies Committee on Hospital Complaints to set up investigating panels to consider matters of clinical judgment.

Under the terms of the committee's recommendation, the commissioner would be concerned to preserve clinicians from unfair criticism based on hindsight as with the concerns of patients and relatives. It said it could not accept the view of some doctors that clinical judgment ought to be totally immune from evaluation.

The health ombudsman rejects about ninety cases a year at present because they involve clinical judgment outside his jurisdiction. About half of all hospital complaints are wholly or partly concerned with clinical judgment.

The committee proposed that the draft code for handling complaints should be simplified, placing the emphasis on listening carefully to a patient's or relative's concern and promptly.

When a dissatisfied complainant wanted to pursue the matter the district administrator or a senior officer should deal with it on behalf of the area health authority. Health authorities should not set up ad hoc inquiries into complaints. In the most serious cases the Secretaries of State should continue to order inquiries under the relevant sections of the health services Act.

All other cases not resolved at once or by the district administrator should be referred to the ombudsman by the complainant or by the area health authority. The commissioner's role should not be to criticize actions or judgments that, even if they turned out to be mistaken, were reasonable in the light of knowledge and information at the time. But if

arrangements for complaints were complicated, fragmented and slow, it said. Most people did not understand how to pursue a complaint because there were so many different routes. The view of community health councils was that most people were really bewildered by the means of avenues open to them. In difficult cases almost always with a clinical element, inquiry procedures had been disquieting, mostly because ad hoc committees operated in a non-judicial way.

The medical profession's grave concern about repeated

inquiries over the same ground and about the hearing of accusations of professional negligence or misconduct without legal safeguards, was well drawn.

The report, which did not deal with the family doctor service, appeals by psychiatric patients against detention or dismissal of NHS staff; said that considering the numbers of patients, treatments and consultations, relatively few formal complaints were made about hospital care. In 1976 there were almost 15,000 written complaints in England—about 0.3 per cent of patient cases.

But it said it would be wrong to be complacent because the number and rate of complaints had been growing slowly but steadily. "While we hope that the American explosion of malpractice litigation will never happen here, a change in public opinion cannot be ruled out and might lead to a much more active pursuit of legal remedies".

Arrangements for complaints were complicated, fragmented and slow, it said. Most people did not understand how to pursue a complaint because there were so many different routes. The view of community health councils was that most people were really bewildered by the means of avenues open to them. In difficult cases almost always with a clinical element, inquiry procedures had been disquieting, mostly because ad hoc committees operated in a non-judicial way.

The medical profession's grave concern about repeated

Disagreement on how to handle disrupted children

Value of special units in doubt

By Our Education Correspondent

Withdrawal units for disturbed or disruptive pupils may make the return to normal classes more difficult for the child who has attended the unit. This is suggested in a report published yesterday in Concern by the National Children's Bureau based on a year's observation of such a unit at an unidentified junior school.

Procedures left many complainants dissatisfied, with a feeling of being fobbed off. In matters outside the ombudsman's jurisdiction, health authorities found themselves defendant and judge and were uneasy that thereby justice was not seen to be done.

Nurses had supported the view that clinical judgment should be open to review.

The committee concluded that where a patient alleged negligence and sought damages litigation was the right course. In many other cases the advantage lay with a more flexible, faster and more confidential form of inquiry, provided it was scrupulously carried out.

Social workers were found to concentrate on improving conditions for the pupils' families, but they often failed to tell the teacher of important plans. Education officials cautioned the teacher to stick to classroom issues and to avoid becoming involved in the children's home life.

The teacher, however, found it impossible to operate on the basis that the pupils' difficulties ended at the school gate. She therefore felt under pressure to act as a family therapist.

Recent research has shown that violent and disruptive behaviour is common in secondary schools in primary schools, among boys than among girls, in urban than in rural areas, and among low-ability disadvantaged pupils.

On average only 4 per cent of pupils are seriously disruptive in class, with a further 10 per cent occasionally disruptive, according to one study.

Concern (National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakeley Street, London, EC1, 6SP).

In brief

Speeding on the motorways

More than a third of all car drivers on motorways exceed the 70 mph speed limit, but the overall speed of cars on motorways last autumn was the same as in 1973, a report by the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory states. It says petrol prices are the most important factor in restraining speed.

Fewer trees for Christmas

Fewer Christmas trees will be available for sale this year, the Forestry Commission said yesterday. Two years ago there was a decline in demand for natural trees, among boys than among girls, in urban than in rural areas, and among low-ability disadvantaged pupils.

The commission is to open more than thirty forest centres selling trees direct to the public at prices between £1 and £3.

Further demand for MP's wife

Mrs Jane Litterick, estranged wife of Mr Thomas Litterick, Labour MP, was further remanded on bail for two weeks. Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, accused of causing criminal damage by fire.

Mrs Litterick, aged 44, of Quarry Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is accused of causing criminal damage at the home of Miss Pat Healy, social services correspondent of The Times.

Accelerated retirements drain police forces

By Alan Hamilton

Police forces throughout Britain are rapidly losing experienced officers through accelerated retirement, a trend likely to continue at least until the end of next year.

The departure of many long-serving men of all ranks is disclosed in a review of the annual reports of chief constables carried out by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation, whose chairman is the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter.

The drain is a result of police officers' being able to count war service as years of service towards a police pension.

By no means all officers who find themselves approaching pensionable age are in the senior ranks, so that the impact is directly on the uniformed branch and the patrol duties, the review says. It adds that the loss comes "just when society has taken one of those lurches into violence and

anarchy that beset some generations".

The Chief Constable of Northumbria, quoted in the review, said there were 391 assaults on his officers last year and that the more likely he was to be assaulted, the more likely he was to be assaulted. The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire said that last year he had difficulty in replacing natural wastage, far less build up his manpower; some of his officers were leaving after 25 years' service.

The Chief Constable of Derbyshire reported that probationary constables made up a fifth of his force and almost two fifths of its uniformed ground cover.

A survey of 31 police districts shows that last year 3,200 officers retired on pension and 2,769 resigned. The wastage accounted for nearly 7 per cent of manpower.

The reports estimate that between 1970 and 1979, 15 per cent of all policemen will seek retirement, two thirds from uniformed branches.

Building pickets fined after £30,000 trial

From Our Correspondent

Three North Wales building pickets were convicted at Mold Crown Court on Wednesday for their part in an incident at Prestatyn on Good Friday during a dispute at Pontin's Holiday Village after an eight-day trial estimated to have cost £30,000, before Judge Hughes.

Frederick Parkinson, aged 39, of Sycamore Drive, Chester, said to have thrown the first two rocks that smashed the windscreen of a strike-breaking lorry, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, for criminal damage, and fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £25 costs and £30 compensation.

George Barry Scragg, aged 36, of Llynnau Drive, Connah's Quay, said to be the pickets' leader, was fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £75 costs. Nicholas Hewitt, aged 26, of Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, was fined £50 for criminal damage, £75 for threatening behaviour, with £65 costs and £30 compensation.

Thomas Brian Williams, aged 38, of Llynn Elwy, St Asaph, and William Stevens, aged 30, of Allt-y-Pentre, Halkyn, were acquitted of threatening behaviour.

Business diary, page 23

Call to put more British fish in tins

By Hugh Clayton

Metal Box, which makes most of the tins used in the British food industry, wants to increase the consumption of tinned fish from home waters.

Despite the loss of traditional fisheries through excessive catching, the home waters team with species sold in tins in Britain. Yet nine tenths of the 350 million tins of fish eaten every year are imported.

Mr Michael Kearing, a marketing manager with Metal Box, said in London yesterday that although mackerel is one of the cheapest and commonest fish caught near Britain, most of the tinned mackerel we eat comes from Japan. At the moment we get most of our mackerel from South Africa", he said. "But we have an adequate supply off the Cornish coast".

Japanese mackerel was becoming scarce because catches had so great that the species had been unable to replace itself. Moreover EEC rules meant that a tariff of 25p in the pound was added to prices of canned fish that came to Britain from outside the Community.

Business diary, page 23

Mentmore inquiry may lead to reforms, peer says

By George Clark

The select committee is examining the National Land Fund and also received submissions yesterday from the Commons all-party Heritage Committee, the Bow Group, Mr Hugh Jenkins, Labour MP for Putney and a former minister responsible for the arts, Mr Jasper More, Conservative MP for Ludlow, and Mr Robert Cooke, MP for Bristol, West, chairman of the Conservative backbench arts and heritage committee.

The all-party group, in its memorandum, submitted that the Mentmore crisis and later crises over the two pictures by Stubbs at the Tate Gallery, the Bellini, the Warwick Castle Candaliers, and the Queen Elizabeth, all pointed to the need for a national contingency fund to assist organizations such as the National Trust, or national and provincial museums to step in when heritage properties, or works of art of great national importance, were to be sold.

The MPs urged that the fund should be reconstituted as the National Heritage and Land Fund and that, over a period of five years, it should be restored to at least its original sum (£50m).

"Today it is wrapped in mystery and the public has no idea where the power of decision lies or how best to bring influence to bear."

The American Express Card samples some southern comfort



Comfort, good food, personal service—these, plus the highest sunshine statistics in the British Isles—give a special charm to a stay in the South of England, where there's a particularly large choice of good hotels.

At the five hotels on this page there is a warm welcome waiting for you and the American Express Card.

The Bramley Grange Hotel, Bramley

A lovely country house with its own 20 acres of Surrey round it, and a well-deserved reputation for hospitality, good food and personal service. The 40 bedrooms all have television and telephones, most have private bathrooms. The restaurant, overlooking rhododendrons and azaleas, has a menu which is excellent, in both quality and variety. Being a free house, there's an exceptional selection of drinks. Golf, boating, racing and National Trust mansions are within easy reach. For a business lunch, a quiet weekend, a conference or a dinner party, there's nowhere quite like the Bramley Grange. Bramley, nr. Guildford, Surrey. Bramley 3434.

The Montcalm, London

Elegance, panache, good humour and appreciation of haute cuisine—these were the qualities of the French nobleman Montcalm. And these are the qualities of the hotel named after him. Here you'll find the best of all worlds: Georgian architecture and modern comfort; surroundings inspired by the age of elegance, interpreted to suit the taste of today—a balanced combination of antiques and specially designed reproduction furniture; English and international cuisine; suites where spiral staircases lead from the drawing room to the bedroom above—unique in a London hotel. The Montcalm is a hotel that is contem-

porary in its efficiency and traditional in its impeccable standards of service. Great Cumberland Place, London W1. 01-402 4288.

The Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, London

You can't miss this splendid hotel. It's 18 storeys high, circular with glare-proof windows—and beautiful views across Hyde Park. The 295 guest rooms are extra large and luxurious, with colour television, individual air and heat controls, and 24 hour room service. You can choose between several restaurants and bars—The Rotunda Cocktail Bar, Le Café Jardin, a coffee shop-restaurant which is open 24 hours a day, the Trianon haute cuisine restaurant, plus three private luncheon and dining rooms. It's the peak of hotel living! 101 Knightsbridge, SW1. 01-235 8050.

The Norfolk Continental Hotel, Brighton

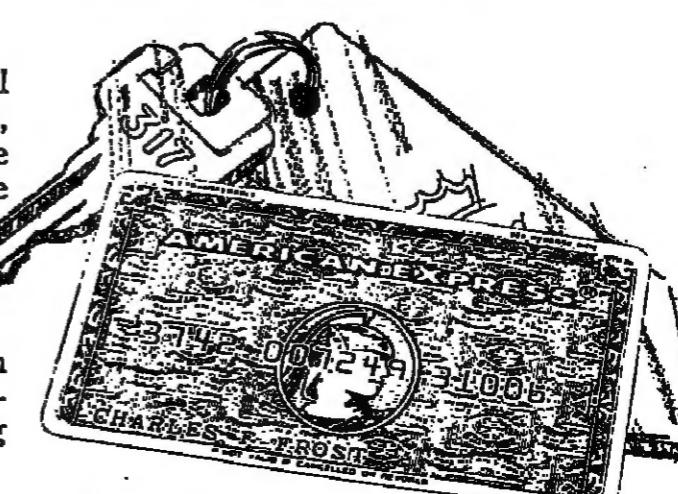
At this magnificent hotel facing the sea, you'll find the ultimate in luxury, in surroundings, food, wine and service. Original chandeliers light the pillared Regency hall with its graceful staircase and the splendid Crystal Room, where superb food is served in golden surroundings. There's also an informal coffee shop overlooking the sea, an American Bar with a terrace for fine weather, and the 19th century Mews Bar with its English pub atmosphere—one of Brighton's most popular meeting

places. The 76 rooms all have private baths and showers, television and radio. The Norfolk is owned and run by a family, who personally supervise every detail, so the service is particularly friendly, efficient and courteous. Kings Road, Brighton. 0273 738201.

The Inn on the Park, London

More individualistic than most of London's large modern hotels. Where else would you find a balcony for each of the 228 bedrooms, or furnishing which includes specially woven carpets? It also has an unequalled position, on an "island" overlooking both Green Park and Hyde Park. There's a comfortable lounge, where you can have tea and snacks, and a pleasant restaurant with a view of a pretty garden and a fountain playing. The hotel has its own garage. Hamilton Place, Park Lane, W1. 01-499 0888.

If you're not yet enjoying the many benefits of carrying the Card—like signing for bills at hotels, restaurants, stores and travel offices the world over—pick up an application form. They're at all these hotels, Lloyds Banks and American Express Travel Offices; or you can call direct on Brighton 693555.



The American Express Card. Don't leave home without it



HOME NEWS

Post Office chairman urges battle against declining standards

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, yesterday urged resumption of a Sunday letter service and a cheap postage rate for next Christmas.

At the end of his first month as head of the corporation, he called on Post Office staff to lead a battle against the general decline in standards and services.

Sir William said he was impressed with the experience, expertise and loyalty of most employees. "I now want to see that harnesses to improve our service to customers. That is crucial," he said.

In reversing a downward trend he said: "We allow anyone to think in terms of increasing prices unless all other avenues have been explored and exploited."

"Neither will I allow reductions in service without full regard to the damage this can do to customer relationships. I want the Post Office to consider again the kind of letter service which could be provided on Sunday... perhaps even a review of the whole question of weekend services."

He wanted codes of practice that were really helpful to customers. "I want us to look in real terms about the possibility of a cheap postage rate for Christmas, 1978. I want

it on record that we are in parcels to stay."

Sir William told the staff: "Whether we like it or not, we are not as highly regarded as we should be. This is certainly highly unsatisfactory and something that we simply must change. Together I know we can do it, and one of the things I intend to do is to be far more open and frank with the public, our customers, our bread and butter. Our business is to give an excellent public service on which we must make a profit."

Lord Camoys, president of the Mail Users' Association, said yesterday that postal charges would rise next year.

Teachers wary on accountability

By Diana Geddes

Teachers are wary of government moves to promote the "accountability" of schools by expanding the testing and assessment of pupils according to an editorial in *Secondary Education*, the journal of the National Union of Teachers, published yesterday.

While supporting a growth in the assessment and testing of pupils under teachers' control, it says assessment and accountability should be kept separate

Acid gushes into river after fatal M1 crash

From Our Correspondent
Northampton

The river Nene was polluted with hydrochloric acid yesterday after a fatal motorway crash involving a tanker. Two people were killed and seven others injured in the crash on the M1 near Wootton Bassett.

The 4,000 gallon tanker was involved with six other vehicles in a multiple accident on the northbound carriageway, causing the acid to gush into a stream at the rate of 10 gallons a minute.

Part-time firemen tried to dilute the acid, but soon dead fish were seen in the stream and the Nene.

Anglian Water Authority experts bulk a dam and a lime filter to try to kill off traces of the acid, but could not stop the river pollution. Domestic water supplies were declared safe. Farmers were warned to keep livestock away from the water for at least a week.

Five policemen were treated in hospital for the after-effects of the fumes. The driver of the lorry that crashed into the tanker was in danger from the fumes while firemen worked for two hours to free him.



Hill memorial: Mrs Bette Hill, widow of Graham Hill, who was killed in an aircraft crash two years ago, receiving a cheque for £110,000 from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the Graham Hill Appeal Fund, at a dinner at Guildhall, London, last night. The money will pay for a rehabilitation centre for the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore.

Move to end students' Jewish-Arab conflict

By Annabel Ferriman

Feelings are likely to run high this weekend when the Jewish-Arab conflict in the universities is discussed at the National Union of Students' conference in Blackpool, which opens today. Because of decisions by some students' unions to ban Jewish societies from use of union facilities the NUS is trying to change its constitution.

The executive is proposing an amendment that would give it the right to suspend students' unions that discriminate against members "on the grounds of race, religion or creed".

A two-thirds majority is needed for the amendment to be adopted, but the executive is fairly confident that it can be found. It is counting on the support of Conservative delegates who are expected to number about two hundred, and the Broad Left group, a Labour-communist alliance of about 250 delegates.

It is likely to be opposed by delegates from the Socialist Workers' Party and the Socialist Student Alliance, which

between them might muster 200 votes. On that showing the amendment would scrape through the 700-delegate conference.

An agreement designed to lessen campus conflict is announced today in the NUS newspaper *National Student*. The union has won declarations from the Union of Jewish Students and the General Union of Palestinian Students that bases around the issues raised in the Middle East conflict "should take place within a free and open atmosphere."

"No limitations on the rights of Jewish or Palestinian students, whether they are religious, political or social groups, should be compromised," they say. Both the societies pledge themselves to work with the NUS.

But those promises alone are not enough, according to Miss Susan Skinner, the NUS president. "The Palestinian students have reached a decision nationally that they will not discriminate against Jewish societies. We respect their sincerity, but their

Because of persuasion from

supporters might not respect their decision".

She said fears that the amendment might increase the power of the executive were all founded because any decision to expel a students' union would always be taken to the national conference.

Others thought it interfered with the autonomy of individual unions.

"We are not infringing their democratic rights," she said. "What we are saying is, if they make a decision we have the democratic right to say we do not want them in our premises set a dangerous precedent."

Although only two unions still had policies of restricting Jewish societies, eight had passed motions equating Zionism with racism. They were the polytechnics of Middlesex, London, East and Central London, Essex University, and the university colleges of Swansea, Bangor and Cardiff.

Those motions, combined with the NUS policy of not allowing a platform to racist and fascist speakers, meant that those institutions could effectively refuse speaking rights to any Zionist speaker.

University had reversed its decision to deprive its Jewish society of students' union support, and that could be effected elsewhere if the NUS and the Palestinians got together, he said.

The Union of Jewish Students was pleased that the NUS wanted powers to suspend unions that discriminated. Mr Moshe Forman, its president, said yesterday that the ban on Jewish students' activities in union premises set a dangerous precedent.

The constitutional changes were unnecessary, according to Mr Michael Marmur, Abu-Kassem, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students. Only two students' unions, those of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and the Polytechnic of North London, still had policies banning Jewish societies from union facilities.

Those motions, combined with the NUS policy of not allowing a platform to racist and fascist speakers, meant that those institutions could effectively refuse speaking rights to any Zionist speaker.

MP's Bill to regulate house agents

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Mr Bryan Davies, Labour MP for Enfield, North, who came third in the ballot for private member's Bill, announced last night that he would sponsor an estate agents Bill.

The Bill, whose second reading is due to be debated on February 3, will require estate agents to keep clients' deposits in separate accounts, join a bonding scheme to protect the deposits, and make public their charges before accepting instructions.

It would also empower the Director-General of Fair Trading to close the business of any estate agent guilty of malpractice.

The Federation of Master Builders has told the Government that if it wishes to encourage owner-occupation it must look urgently at the heavy costs involved in buying and selling property.

£4m of television equipment unused because of unions

By Kenneth Golling

At least £5m of new television equipment is lying idle because it has been "blacked" by unions, Mr Robin Scott, deputy managing director of BBC Television, complained yesterday.

Mr Scott, who was delivering the Shoreham Memorial Lecture to the Royal Television Society, said the equipment was either delivered or ordered for British television companies.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it does not mean what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

give careful examination to the situation, in good time."

Unions may not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to seize unwanted advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Angleterre were particularly affected.

OVERSEAS

Two leaders close Kappler affair

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Dec 1

Constitutional talks between the Rhodesian Government and the internal black nationalist group will begin here tomorrow without Bishop Abel Muzorewa and his delegation from the United African National Council.

The bishop has gone into a week's mourning in anger over the killing last week of more than 1,200 guerrillas by Rhodesian security forces in raids on the Chimoio and Tembue camps in Mozambique.

The talks will proceed because Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, says there is an urgent need to make progress towards peace in Rhodesia. A Government spokesman said today there could be no further delay.

The other two African nationalist organisations, the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation and the African National Congress, said they would be sending representatives. If the organization with the biggest black following, the UANC, was not represented at the outset, this was unfortunate.

"We could go on for ever with one delay after another, but not this time," the spokesman said. "The talks will start on Friday as announced by the Prime Minister."

The initial meeting will deal with procedures and is not expected to last for more than an hour tomorrow afternoon at a place yet to be announced. The broad principles of the negotiations are expected to be outlined, an agenda drawn up and work then allocated to committees to handle details.

The Government has been preparing for such a conference for some months with much ground work on constitutional matters being done by an experienced team headed by Mr George Smith, the Government's Chief legal draftsman.

Mr Smith has already conceded the principle of majority rule based on adult suffrage, provided the other side accepted the need for safeguards for minority groups, which all three factions have accepted. The Sithole delegation will be headed by Dr Elliott Gabbela, his vice-president, as the Rev Ndebening Sithole is still in the United States.

Senator Chief Chirau will head the Zimpo delegation. Mr David Makhone, publicity secretary of the UANC, said today that Mr Smith's callous disregard for his organization's week of mourning would prejudice the successful outcome of the talks.

If Mr Smith was under the illusion that he was going to use the UANC to manoeuvre a settlement for his purpose, he should think again. No settlement was possible unless it was endorsed by the UANC.

In an interview with the Rhodesian Herald, published today, Mr Smith said that more than anything else, if the world wanted peace, it had to end Rhodesia. With goodwill and the cooperation of those who felt the same way, there was a real chance of success.

It would not be an easy process and dramatic results could not be expected in the early stages, he said. Asked, in the light of settlement moves what the objective was of the recent raids into Mozambique, he said the urgent need for raids did not preclude Rhodesia fighting back against attempts by the Marxist Front to take over the country by force.

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's view is that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and resulted in peace efforts.

Their support was demonstrated by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real attempts of the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force."

The raiding dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muz

حلاوة من الأصل

THE TIMES



May all your Christmases be black.



EXTRA SPECIAL OLD SCOTCH WHISKY.

Property



Stone High, at Cobham, Kent.

Ask any estate agent to list the main things a buyer is looking for in a house and the chances are that the word "character" will come pretty high up. Equally, the agent will find it difficult to define precisely what that is, for the word means different things to different people.

More often than not it is merely a preference for an older property in contrast to much of the modern high density "built to a price" estate development. So much so, that any recently built house may be automatically dismissed as being without character, but this carries the mark too far.

There is a steady flow into the property market of modern houses which have been built as one-off constructions, probably architect designed, to meet the needs of people for good, or one of the ordinary but workable homes. Such properties are by no means the cheapest on the market, but often combine a good dash of character with the modern advantages of high-quality modern construction.

One interesting such house in the luxury class is Stone High, in Cobham, Kent, built about 10 years ago. Now for sale through Strutt and Rutley for something over £100,000.

It is a long, low, "co-temp" building, with a tiled brick gabled roof and an unusually large balcony. It has two reception rooms, six bedrooms two with dressing rooms, a sauna and a room which could be an office.

In addition there is a separate staff or guest flat with a bed-sitting room and its own bathroom and shower room. The property sits on about six acres of land and features a swimming pool heated by solar panels and a greenhouse 50ft long. Further land and stabling are available.

Also in Kent is Owl House, in Mill Lane, Marlow, built about seven years ago in the chalet style in which interior layout has been designed to make the most of the hillside position.

Here there are two large reception rooms with picture windows, a breakfast room, a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom, suite and four further bedrooms.

Gardens and grounds run to about 64 acres and the outbuildings include a detached stone garage block, formerly a cottage, which has possible planning permission as a residence. The price is £75,000 and the agents are Bernard Thorpe and Partners, of Cheltenham and Davis, Cheltenham and Payne, of Stow-on-the-Wold.

Offered for £65,000 are two plots for a property called Pooftields, at Kington, Warwickshire, also a house of considerable antiquity. Inside there are many exposed ceiling beams and the accommodation includes two main reception rooms, with inglenook fireplaces and five bedrooms.

A feature of the property

and the grounds of just over five acres, which include a lake and two large ponds, thought possibly to have had monastic origins. There is also a good range of outbuildings including an open-fronted barn.

The property is for sale through Staines of Leamington Spa.

A pleasant house dating from Regency times is the Old Rectory, at Coln St. Dennis, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It was built about 1810, apparently on the foundations of a much older rectory, and is typical of its period, with a low-pitched roof, wide eaves and small windows.

Construction is of rendered stone under a roof of Welsh slate slate and leaded windows, and includes good paneling and underfloor heating. Accommodation includes a drawing room some 18ft by 12ft, a large separate kitchen with a dining area, a playroom, a main bedroom and bathroom, suite and five further bedrooms.

Gardens extend to about 44 acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs of Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

A little older is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

A little older is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland, Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Gardens extend to about 44

acres, with a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spence and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Curiously old is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, built in part up to 1742 and built of white stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has

Now that South Africa's whites have made their decision...

A landslide for Mr Vorster, but what will the urban blacks get out of it?

Johannesburg, Dec 1
So Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, won the mandate which he wanted from the country's white electorate. No one can have been surprised by the massive election victory which the National Party won in yesterday's general election. The banner headline on this morning's *Beeld* newspaper saying *UITKLOPHOU* (meaning knockout) could have been written weeks ago.

But what happens now? Is there any reason to suppose that the lives of the nation's 4.7 million whites or, more important, the 18,000,000 voteless blacks, will be any different in the months ahead than before the election?

When Mr Vorster announced the snap election in September he gave three reasons for the move. These were that he wanted to sort out the situation which had developed among the fragmented opposition parties, gain approval for the National Party's new constitution plan and finally to show the world that South Africa stood united against mounting pressures from abroad.

There can be no doubt that he manifestly succeeded in his first aim. The New Republic Party and the South Africa Party have been hammed and the right-wing Herstigte

Nasionale Party has been ground into the bush veld. The Progressive Federal Party remains the only effective opposition party but its parliamentary representation will be too tiny to make any real impact on government policies.

The Government will claim that the election victory was a mandate for it to go ahead with its constitutional plan, even though the plan (full details of which have not yet been published) was scarcely an election issue. Mr Vorster made it clear this morning that the constitutional proposals "will be implemented in the course of time" although he said that legislation would take some time to be drawn up.

Mr Vorster also stated that the electorate, in showing their overwhelming support for the National Party, had "spoken out against foreign interference in South Africa's domestic affairs". This is certainly true as concerns the country's whites who in the past have tended to swing towards the government in moments of crisis, and the whites only account for one sixth of South Africa's population. The gap between them and the remaining "non-white" five-sixths will almost certainly get wider if the external pressures on South Africa continue to build up.

Mr Vorster admitted today that these pressures are likely to intensify as a result of his election victory. And so they will unless there is some evidence that South Africa is going to make meaningful changes as far as its "non-white" majority are concerned.

Will, therefore, the government make use of its massive majority to speed up the process towards race reform, and in particular offer a new deal to the 8,000,000 urban blacks who are permanent residents in the "white areas" of South Africa?

The dismal showing by the HNP in yesterday's election is a sign that the National Party could move ahead much faster in effecting race reforms without shedding any significant support among the party's right wing.

There is a theory which has been widely propagated during the election that the National Party could move ahead much faster in effecting race reforms without shedding any significant support among the party's right wing.

However, if the Government does stick rigidly to its existing policies it must, of its own accord, only to expand its resources from outside and unrest among the black population but also dissent within nationalist ranks.

An increasing number of Afrikaner nationalists, particularly in the universities and the press, are unhappy

about the Government's rigid adherence to the original apartheid blueprint. They favour a more pragmatic approach particularly vis-à-vis the urban blacks. Significantly, in its editorial comment today the Johannesburg newspaper *Die Vryheid* said that the Government should go ahead in top gear with the development of its policies and "make necessary changes".

Even before this election was called the party had been subject to stresses between its Verligers, who favour reform, and the Verkramptes (conservatives), who do not. The arrival of large numbers of English-speakers in what was traditionally an almost exclusively Afrikaner party could place an intolerable new strain on party unity.

One thing is certain that there will be no relaxation of the Government's tough line on law and order and security. Dissent will be crushed in the same way as the black consciousness movement was suppressed last October. As the Prime Minister remarked today: "As South Africa is situated at present you cannot afford to play with the safety of the state."

Nicholas Ashford

Bernard Levin

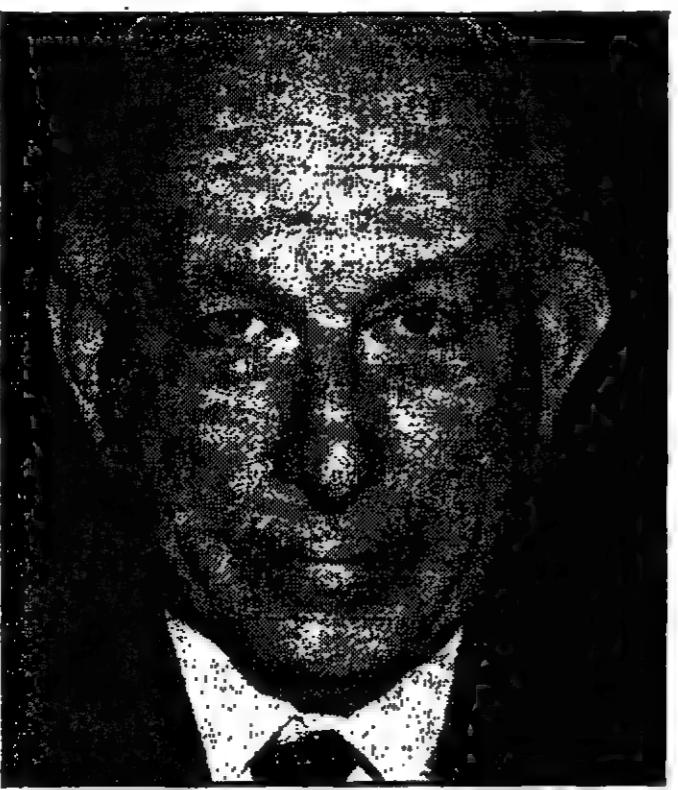
A good opening and a sinister endgame

Chess is the only game with no drawbacks; it eliminates chance (at any rate from the board—it could hardly be expected to do so from the lives and temperaments of the players), anyone can learn in an hour or two how to play, it is infinite in practice even if not in theory, it requires no expensive equipment, it needs only two players, the talent for it is apparently distributed entirely at random, being found alike in plain to the other intellectual attainments and in those of immense learning. It has never incurred ecclesiastical displeasure, and until very recently it has not been affected by political or ideological considerations.

I know of no game, at any rate of a complexity that makes it worth playing, that can say as much. And of course there is no game, and there are previous few other activities of any kind, that give the participants a pleasure so intense and varied.

Literature is enormously extensive, and—unlike that of games such as bridge—much of it can be read with interest by non-players. And I have rarely had a pair of chess-books in my hands of which that last point could have been made more forcibly than in the case of *The Encyclopaedia of Chess*, edited by Harry Golombek, and *Chess Is My Life*, by Viktor Korchnoi (both published by Batsford).

Mr Golombek is, of course, the Chess Correspondent of this newspaper, where he mixes chess entertainment with chess instruction every Saturday. In addition, he carries out various official functions on behalf of the International Chess Federation (he acted at the Fischer-Spassky World Championship match in Reykjavik, and it must have been largely thanks to him that that episode didn't lead to the Third World War). Approached by the publishers to write a comprehensive encyclopaedia of chess, he expressed amazement, which will be shared by every player, that there was no satisfactory work of the kind already in existence, and then got down to producing his own. He recruited six associate editors, including two British Champions, and six more contributors: he does not tell us on what principles the work was divided up, but some of them can be deduced from the authorship of the entries, each of which bears the initials of the writer. Not that it matters much; the user of an encyclo-



Golombek (left) and Korchnoi: covering chess across the board.



Korchnoi

pedia wants to be reassured on only a few vital points: will it be an account of famous chess-dispensing players? but, of course, there is the chess festival held in 1901 in the German town of that name); and—by far the largest group of entries—biographical accounts of every player of even the slightest distinction for whom records of any kind exist.

These will provide the greatest pleasure for the non-players, as well as the greatest amount of information for the addicts. We know that Count O'Kelly de Galway is not only a real person, but, if you please, a Belgian grandmaster; but which of us knew that the present World Champion collects stamps? The biographical entries, indeed, are models of their kind; extraordinarily concise yet informative, accurate (which includes details of the players' lives, chess careers, style of play and match temperament) and for the most part written with considerable grace. (The leading ones are also supplied with photographs—the book is lavishly illustrated throughout—though only Mr

Golombek himself has two such portraits accompanying his entry.) All reviewers of reference books have to draw attention to at least one omission, to show how clever they are, though I was hard put to it to meet this exacting requirement in the case of *The Encyclopaedia of Chess*. I think, though, that there ought to be (I imagine there will be) many more editions—indeed, there will have to be, for the book will inevitably get out of date as new players of importance arise) an entry under Chess in Literature; there are a few such references here and there, but they are not collected, and under the heading all could I find any reference to the most celebrated of all the appearances of chess in fiction. Mr Zvezig's *The Royal Game*, Mr Golombek might also consider an entry for chess metaphors, which have passed into general use in many languages. But his most urgent task is to go round to the publishers with four copies of his sumptuous and indispensable book tied together (they would weigh well over a stone, not counting the string) and hang the manuscript director over the man with the publishing parcel, for the combined idiocy and unprofessionalism of putting out the book with nothing whatever—neither title nor editor, nor even publisher, *colophon* or *dedication*—on the spine or the boards; as soon as the dust-jacket disintegrates (which, with a reference book, will inevitably be fairly quickly) the volume will look like a rather nasty ledger, entirely black and entirely blank.

I said in my opening paragraph that chess has not "until very recently" been "seized by ideology"; alas, Korchnoi's book would make the qualification necessary if nothing else had done so. It is an unashamedly hawkish book, and with the exception of the Appendix, in which he gives the scores of his outstanding games, he gets the right to challenge Karpov for the crown. For Korchnoi's story is that of a Soviet grandmaster, feted and cosseted like a pop-star, who preferred truth and his own integrity to the Party line:

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

The last few years in Latin America, which have seen the arrival of so many military governments, have also seen a remarkable change in the position of the Roman Catholic Church. Not so long ago the Church was regarded as a conservative force, a pillar of the established order. Now it has become in many cases the main opponent of the rightist military regimes, and an advocate of social change.

It has been a painful process in which a number of priests have been killed, in Argentina and Brazil, for instance, and in which they have been under pressure in many countries. One of the most striking incidents was an occasion in Ecuador last year when there was a meeting of two archbishops and 15 bishops from several different countries in Riobamba.

As the meeting got under way, a group of armed men broke in, herded the bishops into a vehicle and took them off to Quito, along with 22 priests, five nuns and several laymen. The next day the foreigners among them were expelled from the country and the grounds that they had been interfering in Ecuador's internal affairs and engaging in political subversion.

One of the main objects of the meeting had been to discuss the needs of the many poor people in Latin America, and in particular those of the Indians of Ecuador. The reaction of the Ecuadorian authorities was a clear indication of the hostility that many of the military rulers feel for this relatively new attitude of the Church. In fact, not all members of the Church hierarchy are in sympathy with such an activist approach. The Church is not a homogeneous entity, and in Colombia, for instance, which is the headquarters of the Conference of Latin American Bishops (CELAM), there are Church officials who consider that the Church is taking too political a stand in championing human rights and the poor in this way.

In Chile, where the Church as a whole has been particularly active in standing up for human rights, despite pressure from the junta, Monsignor Tagle, the Bishop of Valparaiso, has declared his support for the military regime. Like conservative-minded priests in other parts of Latin America, he has seen the armed forces as the opponents of communism, and to be supported for that reason.

The relative strength of the various groups of Latin American bishops in Rio de Janeiro, next year, will be the first such meeting for 10 years, and there are fears among the more progressive members of the Church that the conservatives might succeed in, "taming down" the commitment to change which has been the official policy in Chile.

In a recent article for the *Catholic Herald*, Father Patrick Rice, an Irish priest who was arrested, tortured and expelled from Argentina, wrote: "There is a growing desire to return to the Church and the credibility of the Church, when the Church did not have the problems it has now. Many feel that these problems all stem from an over-preoccupation with the temporal, but now it is time to return to the essentially spiritual message of the gospel."

For them talk about human rights and the poor are certainly important issues but it is no less central to the Church and the way it should be to link to those issues in accordance with its existence."

The progressives have been in the ascendant since a previous conference of Latin American bishops which was held in Medellin in Colombia in 1968, in the aftermath of the second Vatican Council. The conference adopted a set of documents which set the Latin

American Church on a quite different course from its old support of the status quo.

"The exercise of political authority and its decisions," they declared, "have as their only end the common good. In Latin America such authority and decision-making frequently seem to support systems which militate against the common good or which favour privileged groups."

The lack of political consciousness in our countries makes the educational activity of the Church absolutely essential, for the purpose of bringing Christians to consider their participation in the political life of the nation as a matter of conscience."

The documents criticized both liberal capitalism and Marxism, saying that they both "militate against the dignity of the human person". They said that peasants' and workers' unions should acquire "sufficient strength and power"; and they called for "the promotion of the peasants and Indians".

The Medellin meeting took place at a turbulent time in Latin American affairs, when guerrilla groups were active in many different areas, and change was in the air. Since then, the situation has altered again, as the military governments have applied their own remedies to the guerrilla problem, and to political opposition in general, and the Church has found itself in the thick of the struggle.

Church members have challenged the doctrine of "national security", which was initiated in military circles in the United States and has been an influential element in the thinking of the military regimes in Latin America. The doctrine is essentially based on the notion that communism is a threat to the nation, which must be countered.

The military regimes, they say, want to drag the Church into backing their campaign against what is seen as communism, because of the rallying power of traditional Church symbols in Latin America. But this attitude of the military shows no concern for the real aims of the Church, and when the Church refuses to cooperate it is liable to repression.

The more progressive members of the Church have elaborated what is known as "the theology of liberation", which is based on the peculiar characteristics of Latin American development with its vast numbers of poor people and relatively small privileged class. The central idea is that the deprived groups should shake off their lethargy and get about helping themselves.

In Brazil, for instance, where much of the pioneer thinking has been done, the Church has not only spoken out against torture, murder and illegality, but has tried to improve local conditions by setting up some 50,000 community centres in villages across the country.

It is noticeable that the most outspoken churches have tended to be in countries with some of the worst repression, such as Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. In Chile, the Church initially supported the military takeover of 1973, but soon switched to criticism of the junta for its violation of human rights.

There as elsewhere, the Church has been able to withstand a certain amount of pressure because it too is an instrument of the armed forces. Governments have not wanted to move directly against the Church, and there has been an uneasy ambiguity in relations.

It leads to some odd situations. There was an occasion in Chile in which three Chilean bishops, returning from the abortive meeting in Rio de Janeiro last year, were groaned at the airport by what was clearly an officially organized crowd. They were also attacked in the government-controlled press. But soon afterwards they were invited to an official lunch by General Pinochet, the head of the junta.

Some members of the Church are better than others at resisting this sort of blandishment. There are many bishops who are reluctant to criticize the military regimes directly; and even those who are critical, like Cardinal Silva of Chile, find that they have to adopt a diplomatic approach if they are not to have a direct confrontation in which the Church might not come off best.

Peter Strafford

Ever had tinnitus in your ears?

For every second of every day.

The condition known as tinnitus takes many forms. A profoundly deaf person may hear bells ringing inside his head. Continuously. For every waking moment. Or he may hear the scream of machinery. Or noises like escaping steam, or rushing water. It is not unusual to hear two or three different sounds at the same time.

The RNID does what it can to help sufferers from tinnitus and all forms of deafness. To provide this help costs an enormous amount of money. And money, today, is painfully hard to find.

If you can hear, will you be thankful? And help someone less fortunate by means of a donation, a mention in your Will or by Deed of Covenant. Please do something. And do it today.

No stamp needed. Please send your donation to: The Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Room 3, FREEPOST, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BR. Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, KG

RNID

helps deaf people to live with deafness

When Rattigan watched his own obituary

Eight months ago, the clearly dying Terence Rattigan watched his own obituary on television. He lay in a London hospital bed, surrounded by flowers, and after the video monitor was turned off at the end of the 90-minute programme, a tear coursed down his cheek and he quietly spoke his thanks.

Graham Benson, producer of the programme, and its director Michael Darlow, had watched the playwright particularly closely to see how he would react to what Mr Benson calls the "highly personal" aspects of his life. There was no sign of disapproval.

Tonight at 9.25, BBC 1 will be screening the programme, *Terence Rattigan: A Tribute*. It will include eulogies from many of his closest friends and professional admirers, John Gielgud, Elynn Williams and Rex Harrison among them, and there are scenes from some of his plays and the films for which he wrote the screenplays.

"In making the programme, we did not lean heavily on the fact that Rattigan was dying, but we had to do it in a hurry", Mr Benson says. "We knew we were making an obituary, but we had to make sure we gave no hint of that pre-knowledge to Rattigan."

It's a heavy burden venturing to reverse the charges...

A cartoon illustration of a man in a dark suit and tie, looking weary and slightly disheveled. He is holding a telephone receiver to his ear with one hand and a pen in the other, as if he is about to write something down. The background is simple, showing a few lines of text or a wall.

Sociology, the boom academic discipline of the sixties, has at last got the accolade of a chair at Oxford. Dr A. H. Halsey, who has just completed the writing of this year's delayed *Rath Lectures on Change*, which are to be broadcast in January, is to be given a personal chair in Social and Administrative Studies.

Bringing Macbeth to the masses

When the Director General of the BBC attends a preview showing (a rare occurrence indeed) and when the gentlemen of the press applaud at the end (even rarer) then something (as they say) must be about. Tomorrow's three-hour screening of Verdi's *Macbeth*, which goes out simultaneously on Eurovision and is to be shown in America and in Japan as well as being broadcast on stereo on Radio 3, is the cause of all the excitement.

As an estimated eight million people will see and/or hear the opera, I thought I would go and ask Robin Stapledon, the 31-year-old conductor, how he felt about it all. Mr Stapledon was very calm when I saw him yesterday and regaled me with hilarious tales of things that have gone wrong in various productions he has conducted over the years. He is presently

Bryan Devist, the Tribune MP for Enfield North who came third in this year's ballot for private members' Bills—has adopted Consumer Association's

In the steps of Lord Byron

Iris Banham-Lee, with period atmosphere in mind, dressed as the wayward Lady Caroline Lamb the other night—the coach boy look—and trod the very floors that were on stage in another. Synchronizing the videotape with the stored songs presented the trickiest problem.

Boss known for his interpretations of Verdi and of Puccini, Mr Stapledon now wants to take in Mozart and Wagner. "I would like an opera house of my own where I could go and make mistakes and learn", he said. Meanwhile, on December 14, he is to conduct the Huddersfield Choral Society in the Mozart arrangement of Handel's *Messiah*—a rare Christmas honour for one so young.

You will gather that Mrs Banham-Lee has a lively sense of history. That is why she persuaded John Adder, present occupier of Byron's old chambers at Albany, in Piccadilly, to let a bantam or so charitably inclined people invade his premises so that two professional actors could read from the works of Byron and Lady Caroline.

It was just one more of her efforts to raise cash for Action Research for the Crippled Child, for which she is central London organizer.

She calls the events People and Places, and they are being

coming the talk of London literati. She and her committee find a building with a literary or historical link, engage actors (without fee), lay on plenty of food and drink—and capacity audiences respond.

Oscar Wilde, Handel, the Duff-Coope and Elizabeth I are among those who have been given the Banham-Lee treatment to date. Coming shortly: the Brides and Isadora Duncan.



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SOUTH AFRICA'S VERDICT

The National Party, led by Mr Vorster, has won eighteen additional seats and proportionately increased its overwhelming majority. The election has gone as predicted. There are no surprises. The question is, rather, is there anything for the comfort of liberal and humane people inside and outside the iron cage of the Afrikaner republic?

Very little, but not naught; what there is should be bashed. The United Party has been destroyed; its political site bulldozed. In its place there stands the very small, but realistic and now official opposition, the Progressive Federal Party. Though barely twenty in number, it does stand for an alternative white South Africa. It needs to clarify, and even radicalize, its policy, but it sits in parliament to witness that there is a sizable minority of whites who oppose apartheid and who wish to bring the black majority into the political process.

This may sound lame. But South Africa is not, after this election, a one-party state. If in all those black African states which still have an assembly and elections there were, unhampered and at liberty to speak with parliamentary privilege, a comparable opposition party, it would still be possible to believe that representative government remained a hope of Africa's constitutional development. As it is, most of those from black Africa

who will denounce the verdict for Mr Vorster will represent firepower, or one-party intimidation, rather than the secret ballot. While South Africa has a parliamentary opposition and a few outspoken newspapers, hope must not be given up.

It is, furthermore, possible that so large a government party may prove less easy to manage. New independent Afrikaner voices may speak up in criticism on the government side. An uneasy but muted younger Afrikaner generation must realize that it and its children will have to take the consequences in the years ahead of the mistakes made by its elders, and may now find spokesmen.

Finally, the result clears the air in so many—the exact proportions have yet to be estimated—English-speaking South Africans have joined the Afrikaner nation. This may enable Mr Vorster and Mr Botha to claim that the whites are one nation, whereas the blacks are eight nations. On all tribal criteria it is not true, even now, but the blacks can take heart from a demonstration that voting for a party cancels tribal, cultural and linguistic dissimilarities.

By all accounts, Mr Vorster is now hoping, having got the whites fairly solidly into the laager, to get some camp-followers and auxiliaries in too. He is wooing the Coloureds and Asians with a new, as yet unspecified, constitution in

which they will have consultative assemblies (a sort of racial devolution) which will assist in selecting the state president—a titular figure only. It remains to be seen if he has more sweeping constitutional changes in mind. It looks as if he envisages a process of slow constitution-making such as was pioneered by the Turnhalle conference in Namibia. The results

could be very different.

Mr Vorster has declared that white South Africa has given its decisive answer to foreign interference. Certainly it is a dusky answer for those who were so naive as to think United Nations sanctions would reduce Mr Vorster's vote. The purpose of Vorster's is to serve notice that the world abhors racial oppression and will use any suitable occasion to weaken white supremacists' rule, however long it takes. They also tell the black minority that they are not forgotten, that their struggle is supported. The Biko inquest leads to no other reasonable conclusion than that he was illegally killed by the security forces and that following this, the government responsible for these security forces has been returned with a large majority. The white electorate cannot complain if it is inferred that they have this week consciously taken on themselves the guilt for what has been done to Biko and those like him. They have marked their foreheads as well as their ballot papers.

WHY AN OPEN TRIBUNAL IS NEEDED

The Crown Agents, as Mrs Hart said in the House yesterday, have had a long and distinguished history. As a result of the decision not to operate as agents for other governments and public bodies but to become in effect secondary bankers of a particularly speculative sort, operating extensively on their own account, this distinguished institution was by 1974 spectacularly bankrupt. The background to that unwise decision has been well explored by two committees of inquiry. The preliminary conclusion can only be that there was negligence in many places, including the Crown Agents themselves, in the Whitehall departments with responsibility for the Crown Agents, and in the Bank of England, which is responsible for the order of financial institutions. There is, however, no reason to doubt the minister's judgment that steps have now been taken to right the situation and that "nothing like the events described" could ever happen again.

If it had not been for the perseverance of certain newspapers and Mrs Hart's attachment to open government that where matters might well have

been allowed to rest. The original inquiry by the Steven Committee produced a report in 1972, which was suppressed until yesterday. The argument throughout has been that confidence in the Crown Agents and in the British financial system as a whole would be damaged by an open discussion of the issues involved. These arguments were unsound. Strong and worthwhile institutions are seldom, if ever, damaged by the truth. Far more damaging has been the gathering impression that a scandal was being swept (and then kept) under the carpet, in order to avoid embarrassing revelations about those who were directly or indirectly concerned. Mrs Hart deserves commendation for insisting that in the end openness must prevail.

For this reason it is a pity that the Government have decided against a full Tribunal of Inquiry. Given the past history of this episode nothing less than a full and open inquiry of this sort is likely to satisfy the requirement that justice should now be done in public. Given the reputation of Sir Carl Aarvold and Mrs Hart's personal interest it would be quite wrong

to suggest anything except that the further investigation will be most thorough. It is impossible, however, to avoid the situation in which some will think that the procedure of a full and open inquiry has been refused because certain persons and institutions would be embarrassed and that the inquiry might stray into other areas. If an inquiry were to stray some

what into an investigation of the wider collapse of property companies and secondary banks, that would in fact be fully in the public interest. The issues raised by the collapse of the secondary banking system, which in a sense came to include the Crown Agents in their extra-national activities, have not been properly or fully investigated.

The central point, however, is that an informal inquiry working in private cannot provide a forum in which responsibility for this debacle can be properly allocated in a way which will satisfy public opinion. Those who are in the end blamed, as some certainly will be, will not have had a chance to put their case in public under oath. And institutions will not be able to show in public that they have put to right such defects as have been revealed.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COUNCILLORS

If earnings were distributed according to a ranking of relative desert established by referendum—and drier systems have been proposed—there might be some jostling at the top between nurses, firemen and zookeepers, but there would be few candidates for place lower in the list than local councillors. This public appraisal, which is by no means fair, has three main causes. First, there is a general instinct that when times are bad, rulers and governors at whatever level should suffer at least as much as the rest of us. Recollections of the local share in the recent upsurge of public spending have not yet been obscured by the successful efforts to bring it under control again. Second, the corruption uncovered by the Poulson affair and other cases will take years to live down. Third, public opinion is still in the habit of regarding councillors ideally as disinterested volunteers. The system of larger allowances introduced in 1973 has given strength to the charge—in most cases quite unjustified—that candidates seek local office with a view to lining their pockets.

These factors would make non-starters of the main proposals of the Robinson report, published yesterday, even if no official policy of earnings restraint existed to make immediate implementation impossible. This is so although one of the main purposes of the report is to clear councillors of the suspicion

fostered by present arrangements that they spend all their time thinking of tricks to enlarge their allowances. At present they receive an attendance allowance of up to £10 a day (and a payment for travel and subsistence which was excluded from the inquiry). In 1973 attendance payments replaced an allowance for financial loss suffered on account of specified council business. This had been felt to be unfair to the self-employed, who often could not prove their losses, and not to reflect how hard each councillor worked.

The present system has led to even more dissatisfaction on the latter ground than the old. So the report proposes reintroducing financial loss payments, but only as a minor part of total rewards. Each councillor would receive £1,000 a year simply for having brought home the votes, and those with special responsibilities (such as committee chairmen) would receive hundreds or even thousands of pounds more. These extra sums would create an incentive to more than token participation in council business. At the same time local discretion about the circumstances in which allowances may be paid would be sharply reduced—a proposal which would do more to safeguard the standards and reputation of local government than anything else in the report.

The committee insist that these payments would not be salaries, but the distinction seems an artificial one. Salaries are rejected because they would

be deducted from central government funds, in order to preserve the free public library system.

The society now supports the suggestion that failing legislation, a non-statutory scheme be organized by the Arts Council—if this lies within the council's powers—in order that PLR should start as soon as possible and that, at last, authors should be paid for the use of their copy-right works in public libraries.

At the same time it realizes that any non-statutory scheme is highly vulnerable, since it can be diminished or abolished altogether in times of financial or other stringency. Therefore, in the end PLR must be safeguarded at law.

PLR is in essence an aspect of copyright. Protection under a

revised Copyright Act is thus the logical solution, if this does not involve too long a delay and provide it can be harmonized with the requirements of the EEC, which is now becoming active about PLR and other rights of authorship.

In writing this letter I am expressing the views of the Committee of Management of the society and of my predecessors in the chair, Geoffrey Trease (1972-73), Michael Holmyard (1973-74), Lady Antonia Fraser (1974-75) and Francis King (1975-76).

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN W. ALDISS, Chairman

of the Committee of Management,

The Society of Authors,

84 Drury Lane, SW1.

November 25.

Public lending right

From Mr Brian Aldiss

Sir, PLR must be safeguarded at law.

The Society of Authors—which has promoted PLR since 1951—has intimate knowledge of almost every possible method of operation and of the legal problems. Despite certain reservations, it backed the Government PLR Bill—the one killed at the last stage by filibuster in November 1976. It fully supported the technique worked out with the Department of Education and Science, namely that remuneration to authors be assessed by loan ramping at selected library points, and that all the finance be provi-

Awarding criminal legal aid

From Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, and Mr John Marriage, QC

Sir, Observations made by Lord Shawcross on the administration of justice and the conduct of the Bar in criminal trials would ordinarily command respect. Although while in practice he rarely acted in criminal matters and retired from the Bar in 1958, he was Attorney-General from 1945 to 1951 and later Chairman of the Bar Council. It is why nowadays crime pays... the criminal knows... if caught he will get legal aid and have at least a sporting chance if so confusing a jury that he will get off... The careful use of the word "increasingly" implies that the Bar is now indulging in questionable activities previously unknown. The deliberate use of the statistic implies that as a result for fewer criminals are now being convicted. This is not true. The latest available judicial statistics show that in 1976 over 81 per cent of those committed for trial were convicted either on their plea of guilty or after trial.

If Lord Shawcross really wants to complain about the acquittal rate then he should quote the relevant figures to a second person and let him be a barrister. It has always been, even when Lord Shawcross was at the Bar, been accepted as proper for the barrister to exercise the right on behalf of his client for it comes within the general scope of his instructions to defend. It is one of the masters he must consider in the light of his client's interests. It is both wrong and unjust to attack the Bar for the lawful use of a right given to an accused person originally by the court. Now and now by statute.

We further assert that no barrister should during a trial make allegations suggesting fraud or ill doing on the part of others or attack the police... unless he is satisfied that the information available to him reliably suggests that what he is alleging is true. It is not part of a barrister's duty to satisfy himself of the truth of relevant facts underlying the assertions he is required to make in the proper conduct of his client's case. His own belief is irrelevant. An accused person is to be defended by his advocate not judged by him. That is the function of the jury. It is only if he is required to put questions not directly relevant to the case, to attack the general credibility of a witness, that the advocate is called on to ensure that the imputation in his questions is well founded or true.

In a passage on legal aid, Lord

Shawcross said: "We know with

Scotland Bill progress

From Mr George Younger, MP for Ayr (Conservative)

Sir, Few parliamentarians would disagree with your correspondent Hugh Noyes (December 1) in his view that the proceedings on the Scotland Bill are largely irrelevant, but the main reason for this is that Parliament is not asked to consider very important and highly technical constitutional Bill under a "guillotine" procedure.

The Conservative Opposition have put down a large number of sensible amendments which are by no means destructive, and which certainly ought to be fully debated. However, the fact that many backbench members in all parties have also put down amendments which they are fully entitled to do, means that these often take all of the small time available for discussion, leaving no time for discussion of important amendments put down by the Opposition. Similarly, many important backbench amendments get called for debate either. All of this makes a nonsense of discussing the Bill, and is bad for Parliament.

Of course it is the case that under present arrangements the Government would be most unlikely to be able to get this Bill passed without a timetable being enforced, as it has

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE YOUNGER,

House of Commons.

December 1.

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, we should consider a change in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government can't agree to give the all-party conference which my colleague Francis Pym has consistently advocated, should there not be a select committee set up to examine the details of any changes proposed in the constitution before legislation is presented to the House? If a Bill, when presented, was clearly seen to have taken account of the report of such a select committee, there would be less objection to the destruction of timetable.

Yours faithfully,

حکایت از اصل

a Special Report on the art, techniques and implements of handwriting

More see point of variety

by Derek Harris

Fountainpens were revolution-
ary enough in their day
when they represented prob-
ably 70 per cent of the writing
instruments business. Nor
are they down to less
than 20 per cent of a market
which in the United King-
dom last year, was worth
some £22.6m.

That does, however, mean
according to pundits in the
trade, that the fountainpen
is on its way out. This is
despite all the progress in
the past three decades first
with ballpoint pens and then
five dip pens (which the
trade calls markers).

The latest invention is the
dipping dip pen, roughly a
cross between a ballpoint
and a marker. Even a new
departure in propelling
pencils (it uses a series of
usually thin leads sprung
(writing use) is making
heads in a number of
foreign countries.

The essential characteris-
tic of the market in writing
instruments now seems to be
that where at one time one
person would make one pen
and possibly a pencil or two
or more of the writing
tools necessary, nowadays he
will own a whole
array of different instru-
ments for different jobs.

This is where the greatest
expansion in the market has
come from in recent years,
although where fibre pens
and other markers in the
last few years or so hardly
seem to affect most ball-
point pen sales it is possible
that the rolling tip might
erode either or both.

The total market tends to
be under-researched with
some comparative statistics
hard to come by, but there is
no doubt it is a highly com-
petitive business in terms of
its sources. The marker mar-
ket at the cheaper end is
dominated by imports
largely from Northern Italy
but with some from the Pacific
basin.

Imports are the source of

many of the own-brand mar-
kers to be found in the big
multiple shops. But Men-
more Manufacturing, which
produces the Platinum
range and is one of the few
remaining independent
British pen and marker
makers, nevertheless claims
volume in this market is at
about the £10 retail mark.

Although Parker makes one
solid gold fountainpen re-
tailing at £137.

But while Sheaffer has at
most 20 per cent of the
market sector, and the
French company, Waterman,
some 5 per cent, Parker
claims 72 per cent of the
market.

Mr Jack Margry, market-
ing director at Parker, whose
manufacturing headquarters
is at Newhaven, East Sussex,
commented: "Since the dip
in sales caused first by the
ballpoint pens, the nib mar-
ket has remained pretty
stable for a number of years.
But there have recently been
signs of a pick-up and I be-
lieve there will be a slight
increase over the next few
years—possibly 5 per cent a
year. One problem is the
people who have not used a
fountainpen or not for a long
time; it is a very sophisti-
cated writing instrument.
These days, none of the old
solvers and leathers that some
might remember from school-
days, are as convenient with
such facilities as slide-in ink
cartridges."

He feels the upturn would
be in the quality market, in-
cluding the better quality
steel nibs. Parker claims 32
per cent of the steel nib
market of the steel nibs.

But here's a lion's share
goes to Platinum pens that
dominate the lower echelons
of the sector. Platinum,
while having a few gold nib
pens in its range, has well
over 50 per cent by volume
of the fountainpen market,
including those with steel nibs.
Two thirds of the steel nib
sector runs Parker close for
first place in value terms.

Papermate certainly is ahead

of Parker on volume, some
of its range being further
down the market.

Last year 77 per cent of
the Parker sales was repre-
sented by ballpoint pens,
fountainpens being the other
substantial contributor at 15
per cent. The other major
contender in quality ball-
points is another United
States company, Sheaffer,
which does some part manu-

facturing on page III



Richard Draper

Writers begin to show their true colours

by Patricia Tisdall

Great prestige is still asso-
ciated with personal writing
paper. Even though faster
and easier ways of direct
communication by telephone
and air mean that letters are
seldom the only clue to the
writer's personality, and
status, many people believe
that a prospective employer
or host will analyse the
appearance of a letter, in-
cluding the quality of the
paper that it is written on
(down to the watermark) as
well as its content.

Butlers, social secretaries
and other connoisseurs still
scrutinise stationery care-

fully in this respect. How-
ever, the yardsticks have
changed. At one time social
status used to be related to
the size of the embossing
and thickness of the paper.
Gilded edges were particu-
larly valued.

But by the end of the
Second World War upper
class tastes had changed to
become less flamboyant. In
addition, mass production
and marketing had brought a
good quality notepaper with
it in the reach of everyone's
pocket. Writing paper came
to be considered more as a
guide to the taste of the
sender rather than his

decoration on one side. It

has now spread, particularly
in the choice of colours
offered, to conventional
notepapers.

Nevertheless, some of the
old class-conscious attitudes
to personal stationery have
not altered. Thin, ruled
writing paper is, for instance,
still regarded as socially
inferior. This attitude sprang
from the days when it was
delusion that only the semi-
literate needed rules to
guide their handwriting. At
the same time, most popular
writing pads to this day
carry a heavy ruled sheet
which can secretly be used
to straighten shaky hand-
writing.

On the other hand, printed
letterheads have continued
to be considered desirable
socially as well as for practical
reasons. The problem
has been, until recently,
that the supply of personal-
ized printed stationery
has been confined to a small
number of outlets. Obtaining
them tended to be a lengthy
and expensive and tedious
process undertaken
by only a few persistent
and copious letter writers.

With a few exceptions, the
choice of supplier was
limited either to the local
printer, who did not
welcome having to set up
his press for a short run of
200 or so sheets of paper,
or to a retail agent of a
large concern such as
J. Arthur Dixon who placed
orders from style books.

In either case it was rare
for delivery to be made
within less than a month.

It was in the personalization
sector of the stationery mar-
ket that Mr Christian Brann,
a marketing consultant with
considerable experience of
printing and publishing, saw
a business opportunity. His
preliminary research showed
a demand for a wider range
of matching paper colours,
inks and envelopes than were
generally available. Above
all, people wanted the order-
ing process made simpler
and quicker.

The research showed that,
contrary to widely held
beliefs, the potential users
favoured colour over no
longer blue but yellow—a
warm, pale beige colour.

Given the option, 33 per cent

of stately homes vanished.

As well as being quicker
within the writing paper
industry, however, is Dickinson
son Robinson whose Basildon
Bond, Queen's Velvet, Three
Candlesticks, Lion and Chur-
ton Deckle brands account
for nearly three-quarters of
total British sales—estimated
at about £15m. In some sec-
tors, such as writing pads,
its share is as much as 80
per cent.

As well as being one of
the biggest manufacturers of
envelopes and stationery prod-
ucts in the world, the £382m
group is also one of the
oldest, having been founded
by John Dickinson in the
early 1800s. It remains one
of the few industrial giants
which still survive from the
days of George III.

The company, which has a
considerable export as well

as British trade, places con-

cern in the market.

The reason for this is that
there have been large num-

bers of new entrants, either
imported or designed by
craftsmen on a small scale.

As a result, the market is
much more fragmented than

for instance, the writing
pads sector where distribu-

tion is national and in great
quantities.

New entrants with original

ideas are competing for

older customers, who make

most purchases of personal-
ized stationery, and also for

the youthful, fashion-con-
scious market, which buys
most decorated notepaper.

Nevertheless, Dickinson's

is confident of maintaining

its stake as far as the man-

agement of writing paper pur-

chases is concerned, and is mean-

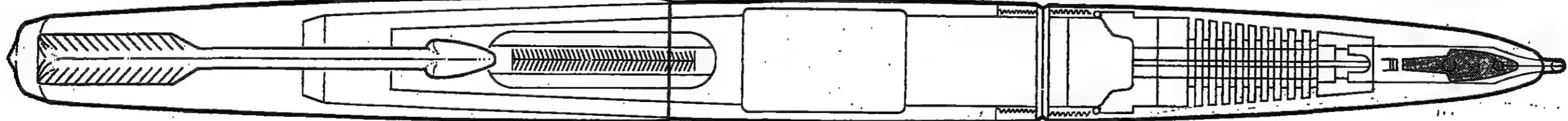
while opening up new mar-

ket abroad. The range of
established brands has

recently and successfully

been introduced in Japan.

A pen that merely looks beautiful is no pen at all.



Before you buy a new fountain pen ask yourself a fundamental question.

What are you actually going to do with it?

Is it something you're going to leave as evidence of your good taste on a leather-topped desk?

Is it going to be a status symbol with which you sign the occasional bill, at fashionable restaurants?

Or will it be a piece of jewellery to complement your gold cufflinks and cigarette case?

If so, take a look at the photograph of the Parker Cirrus below, compare it with other fountain pens that cost around the £22 mark and make your choice.

But if, on the other hand, you are

going to write with it, that's a different matter.

And we'd recommend that you study the technical drawing above, for it will tell you a lot more about the pen.

For example: do you see that little capsule shape behind the nib, the one with the fins?

It's called an ink collector and ensures there's always enough ink with which to write, but never so much as to blot.

And if the air inside the pen expands (due to high altitude flying or the heat of your hand) it'll prevent ink leaking into your suit pocket.

Another reason why the Cirrus will always write first time is the way we make the nib.

Starting with sheets of pure 14 carat gold we press, cut and polish it into a shape that perfectly conveys the ink to the tip.

At every critical stage we examine it under a microscope, particularly of course, when we grind the tip itself.

We make this from a costly alloy called Platetherium which is four times harder than steel and ten times smoother. It will last a lifetime.

There are eight nib-styles and if you find you're unhappy with the one you choose, we'll change it for another grade if you return it within a month of purchase.

We could go on. The clip is of rolled gold on phosphor bronze. It shouldn't snap or lose its tension.

The ink-sac is rubber, it won't perish or puncture (and you can replace it with a cartridge of Quink simply by unscrewing it).

But perhaps it's time to look at the photograph.

The Cirrus is finished in rolled gold on which we've drawn the finest lines to give it a quiet lustre.

If you think it has style, good.

If you think it will reflect well on your status that's fine.

But if it makes you want to write, well, that's perfect.

PARKER

BY APPOINTMENT TO HM THE QUEEN
MANUFACTURERS OF FINE STATIONERY
THE PARKER CIRRUSS COSTS £22.



Away from the signs of the times and back to a fair script

by Nicolette Gray

"Beautiful or fair writing, elegant penmanship" is The Oxford Dictionary's definition of calligraphy. Do we practise, or have, any use for this activity today?

The dilemma that reading and writing are becoming obsolete, that we are reverting to a state of communication through signs and pen-made;

sounds only, has, it seems, rather than writing. It calls and one hopes—been rejected. But so we still need a fair copy of a text, or in a fair copy of a letter. This is done by the typewriter.

What about fair in the other sense? We see plenty of clever, modish or fancy book jackets, record sleeves and so on, but this is seldom to flourish. Most people can

know in shadow, elegant, in-deed-in-action in our history has handwriting been past of books written with the sense: no one now makes a elaborate forms, and flourishes of the writing mas-

ter? In this sense it is surely dead.

But there still remains

the proper accomplishment of an educated person. It

can hardly be said to

flourish. Most people can

and do write, but their writ-

More see point of variety

continued from page 1

them to use non-toxic inks which no longer appear to be so great.

Platinum share is probably equivalent only to about 20 per cent of the total value of the sector. Even so, with its substantial slice of the market for popularly priced ballpoint pens and an unusually wide range of marker pens, Pledgeman in the royal pens writing instrument market almost certainly takes a substantial third place in value terms after Parker and Papermate.

That would leave Sheaffer fourth in the overall pecking order.

Mr Christopher Andrews is chairman of Montmore Manufacturing and at 36, the second generation of the family in a business started in 1919. From his vantage point at Montmore's Stevenage factories in Hertfordshire prospects for sales and profits are looking good, with a particularly lively export effort being mounted that last year took the company over the £1m mark in overseas sales.

This was just over 13 per cent of sales, turnover compared with the 29.7 per cent for the United Kingdom manufacturers as a whole, but there was a notable leap in market sales abroad, an area where the United Kingdom makers had a whole year ago been doing so well. Montmore took 74 per cent of the fibre tip markers export market last year compared with their 25 per cent the previous year.

Australia, traditionally a strong Platinum market, showed a 200 per cent sales rise last year and a top

ranking in non-toxic inks in Sweden—an important issue where children are using writing implements.

probably accounted for some of a spectacular rise in sales throughout Scandinavia. Memnon's coup, however, has been a series of orders for fibre tip pens and ballpoints from Japan where the fibre tip was invented.

Equal optimism radiates from Parker Pen whose turnover, at factory gate prices, is running up to £1m a year for domestic market sales and up to £1.5m for export sales. Unit output last year was 11 million, showing an average annual growth rate since 1972-73 of nearly 16 per cent. Output this year is expected to jump 30 per cent to 14 million units.

Conway Stewart, Britain's oldest pen makers rescued from receivership by the Linpac Group, the Lincolnshire-based packaging company, has now after a labour of love and investment in new machinery, been turned round to a profit, according to Mr Colin Mansell, director and general manager. He hopes to double production of ballpoints and markers next year, while continuing to import a range of quality pens, to maintain a presence in the gold nib market from Japan. Platinum company in Japan. Platinum's pens abroad are sold under the President label to avoid any difficulties with near-named

Platinum. Parker, as might be expected, is by far the biggest United Kingdom advertiser, with an annual budget of well over £1m. In the first six months of this year Parker accounted for 58 per cent of the industry's total sales for pens. Their budget for this Christmas period exceeds £660,000. Papermate's Christmas campaign is also impressive at more than £450,000.

The author is Commercial Editor, The Times.

writing in shadow, elegant, in-deed-in-action in our history has handwriting been past of books written with the sense: no one now makes a elaborate forms, and flourishes of the writing mas-

ter? In this sense it is surely dead.

But there still remains

the proper accomplishment of an educated person. It

can hardly be said to

flourish. Most people can

and do write, but their writ-

But, you may say, we all know the sort of horizontal Gothic using a flexible quill, sixteenth-century italic with its chisel-cut pen and finally back to the flexible pen for copperplate, the last formed style of handwriting practised in this country.

If good, legible, pleasurable handwriting is to become once more the normal accomplishment of educated people, not a self-taught hobby among the few, this means a new method of teaching in schools.

At present handwriting seems to be yet another area of education which is greatly neglected. Most children are

made to start by copying printed letters—forms of our alphabet which have been expressly designed to eliminate all elements of calligraphy, including the joining movements which are an integral part of cursive letters.

These establish correct letter spacing and

make possible the easy flow of movement which is essential for the ultimate formation of a quick and legible hand.

After the first step of teaching "print script", there seems seldom to be any consistent school policy about handwriting. Although there may be talk of "free expression" at an early stage, with the result that the small child may be expected to write on unfixed paper, the only criteria in later school life are likely to be neatness and regularity.

And, indeed, how can we expect anything else when we have no models of excellence in handwriting? Copperplate has been superseded by "print script", which is a method of teaching, not a style of writing. The only forms and beautiful script which is available to the child or the adult, who wants some sort of idea on which to model his handwriting, is the italic hand. And that is based on the use of a pen which is obsolete.

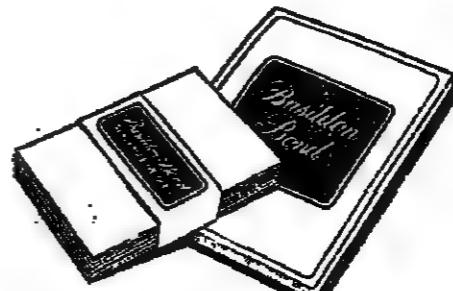
A ballpoint moves easily in all directions; the basic movement of the traditional pen is a down stroke. Why restrict the new pen to this pattern? Why not introduce flowing diagonals and horizontals?



A pupil at a Manchester infants' school starting early—at seven—to "form her letters". Perhaps she will be of a generation which will recapture the stylish copperplate of its great-grandparents.

Letters can be drawn with a ballpoint for maximum ease and beauty, not by inventing new forms, which would be illegible, but at the same early stage learn to write words as units. The author is researching on the teaching of handwriting for the Inner London Education Authority. She has written a number of books on lettering, including its use on buildings and its relation to drawing and typography.

**"Hello? Is that the engineer?...I said,
THE ENGINEER...No, I know you can't hear
me. That's why I'm ringing....What?...But I AM
speaking up....I said I AM SPEAKING UP!
...There's a high scream on my line....No, not
an ice cream...A HIGH SCREAM...Well, why
ask ME what it sounds like?...What? I know I
need an engineer, that's why...you're who?
...Oh, this is impossible! I shall write to The
Times about it...THE TIMES...Phone what?
...123? Oh, forget it!"**



Wouldn't a letter say it better?

Basildon Bond
by John Dickinson

EXCLUSIVE! PERSONAL STATIONERY OFFER FROM THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

The World Wildlife Fund is offering distinctive, personalised stationery that will support Wildlife with every letter you write.

Now you can enjoy the luxury of two of Britain's most distinguished brands of stationery - personalised for little more than the price of ordinary writing paper.

By far the most popular paper in Britain, *Basilion Bond* is a favourite for every pen and handwriting style.

And with its superlative texture, *Three Candlessticks* is probably the most distinctive paper ever watermarked.

CHOICE OF COLOURS AND STYLES

Both papers come in attractive cabinets of 200 sheets (8 inches by 6 inches) and 100 matching envelopes, in a range of subtle colours.

Our free brochure also offers you a personal choice of address heading styles and colours. Or you can save time and leave this all to us, by ordering from the coupon below.

We'll deliver all orders received by December 6 before Xmas, if we possibly can, first class post permitting.

Whether for yourself or for a gift, don't miss this opportunity to acquire truly distinctive writing paper that will express your good taste and support the World Wildlife Fund at the same time.

Postscript: *Panda House*, 21 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 8AA.



There is little new or special in the techniques of marketing writing paper, but in recent years the popular demand for new designs - and even for new products - has grown at a striking rate.

A notable example is the success of the Brieflet - a single sheet of paper, 27cm by 18cm, folded in four and sporting a pretty picture in one quarter, which sells most strongly in the middle-to-cheaper end of the market. Its manufacturers, John Dickinson & Co, reckon that since 1967 its sales have risen from 1 per cent to 7 per cent of their market and are still climbing.

In common with its many counterparts - Notelets and Chatlets and Postlets and all the otherlets on to which the correspondent is expected to compress his address, the date and his most powerful emotions - the Brieflet's appeal lies chiefly in its size: "the short message for all occasions". It is ideally suited to a lazy age, when the telephone call, while cheaper as well as quicker than a letter, can still be less socially acceptable.

Product of our times though it may be, the Brieflet is merely the latest model in a tradition of personal stationery, marketed by Dickinson's on a mass scale, which originated 140 years ago.

Shown in the accompanying pictures are two early landmarks in that tradition: a box of stationery produced in 1899 for British soldiers serving in the Boer War, and a two-penny stamped cover issued by the Post Office in 1840.

Inside the lid of the South African box, known to the trade as a compendium or papeterie, is a facsimile reproduction of one of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poems, *The Absent-Minded Beggar*, written and signed by the poet. An accompanying legend states that Dickinson's bought the reproduction rights from the *Daily Mail* "for a large sum", and that the proceeds were given to the Reservists Fund. The box contained 24 buff-coloured sheets and 20 envelopes to match. It probably sold for 6d.

The stamped cover, like the box, comes from the Dickinson archives at Apsley, near Hemel Hempstead. Known to collectors as a Muirhead envelope - its value today, unused, is about £45 - it recalls the almost-forgotten tale of a Victorian marketing fiasco.

The story of that fiasco illustrates some of the finest virtues of its period: endeavour and ingenuity, patience and energy, enterprise and foresight. Nevertheless it ended in a mixture of tragedy and farce, and it is worth recounting in detail.

For some years before the universal penny post was launched in 1840, controversy had raged as to the method by which stamps were to be printed or applied. Convenience and security were the two chief criteria, and both had to be considered in relation to recent progress in paper-making technology.

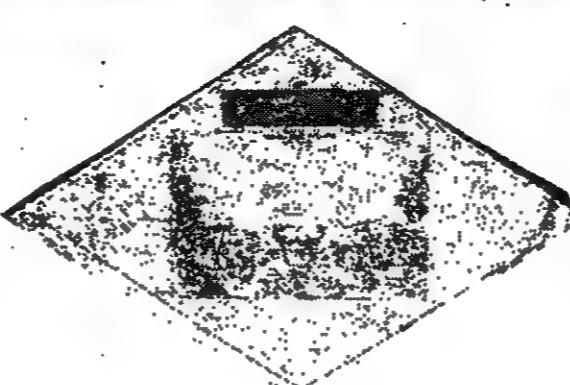
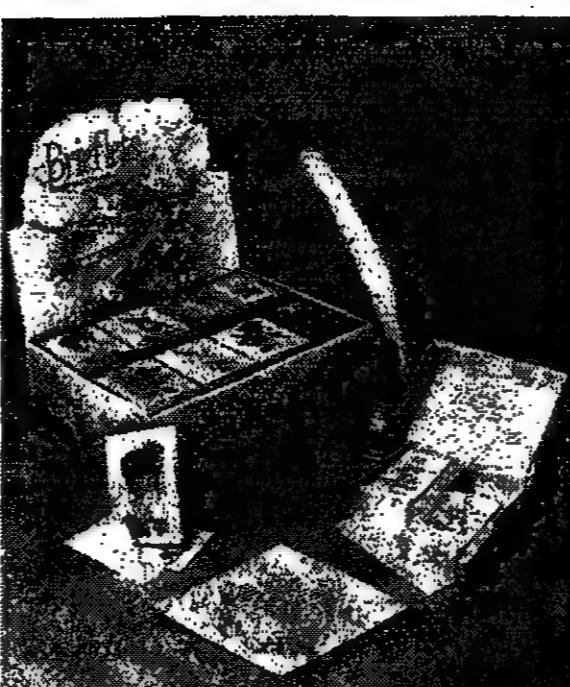
Of the two alternatives most widely mooted, one was a printed sheet containing a silk thread, to be sold flat and subsequently folded to a grid pattern. As early as 1830, Dickinson's gummed envelope had not

yet been patented). The other was the adhesion of separately printed and sold stamps such as were already being used in common use as medicine labels.

Clearly, the former method presented the paper manufacturer with by far the greater opportunities for profit, and Mr John Dickinson, who had long ago established extensive mills at Apsley in Hertfordshire, on the banks of the River Gade, soon became the cover's most ardent champion.

As early as 1830, Dickinson was convinced that this

How the stamp's competitor came unstuck



Penny Black stamp went on sale simultaneously, on May 6, 1840. The public, as ever, were more concerned with the message than the medium, at once deciding that Mulready's design was a bad joke and that the risk of forgery being so much diminished by the use of such a paper as Dickinson's, the duty of the inspector would be very much diminished, and I think all prospect of loss to the revenue from forgery would be at an end."

"Would that not give rise to complaints of monopoly on the part of other papermakers?" asked the Commissioners. "I think not," Mr Hill replied. "If the Government could enter into a contract with Mr Dickinson to supply them with such paper as they might want, giving any stationer in the kingdom or any individual the privilege of buying whatever paper he chose of whatever quality or price, to be stamped, there could be no complaint."

The Commissioners' suspicion may have been allayed: probably not. In any case, the resolution passed by the Commons on August 17, 1839, under which the universal penny post finally became law, allowed for both options - covers and stamps.

It was now up to Dickinson not only to secure the government contract for making the covers - that he did, on February 26, 1840 - but also to ensure that the public would opt for its use in preference to the stamp. It was at this point in his campaign that, as the wags put it, Dickinson came unstuck.

Six months previously, in the wake of the Commons resolution, the Lords of the Treasury had announced a competition, open to "all artists, men of science, and the public in general", for proposals "as to the manner in which the stamp might best be brought into use". The competition, worth £200, was won by William Mulready, RA, and it was his elaborately engraved design for a square postal cover which Dickinson, with nay, had secured the contract to manufacture.

The collapse of Dickinson's long-held plan was as swift as it was unforeseen. The Mulready cover and the

lashed in a London daily newspaper: "In the centre at the top, sits Britannia, throwing out her arms, as if in a tempest of fury, at four winged urchins, intended to represent post-boys, letter-carriers or Marques, but who, instead of making use of their wings and flying, appear in the act of striking out or swimming".

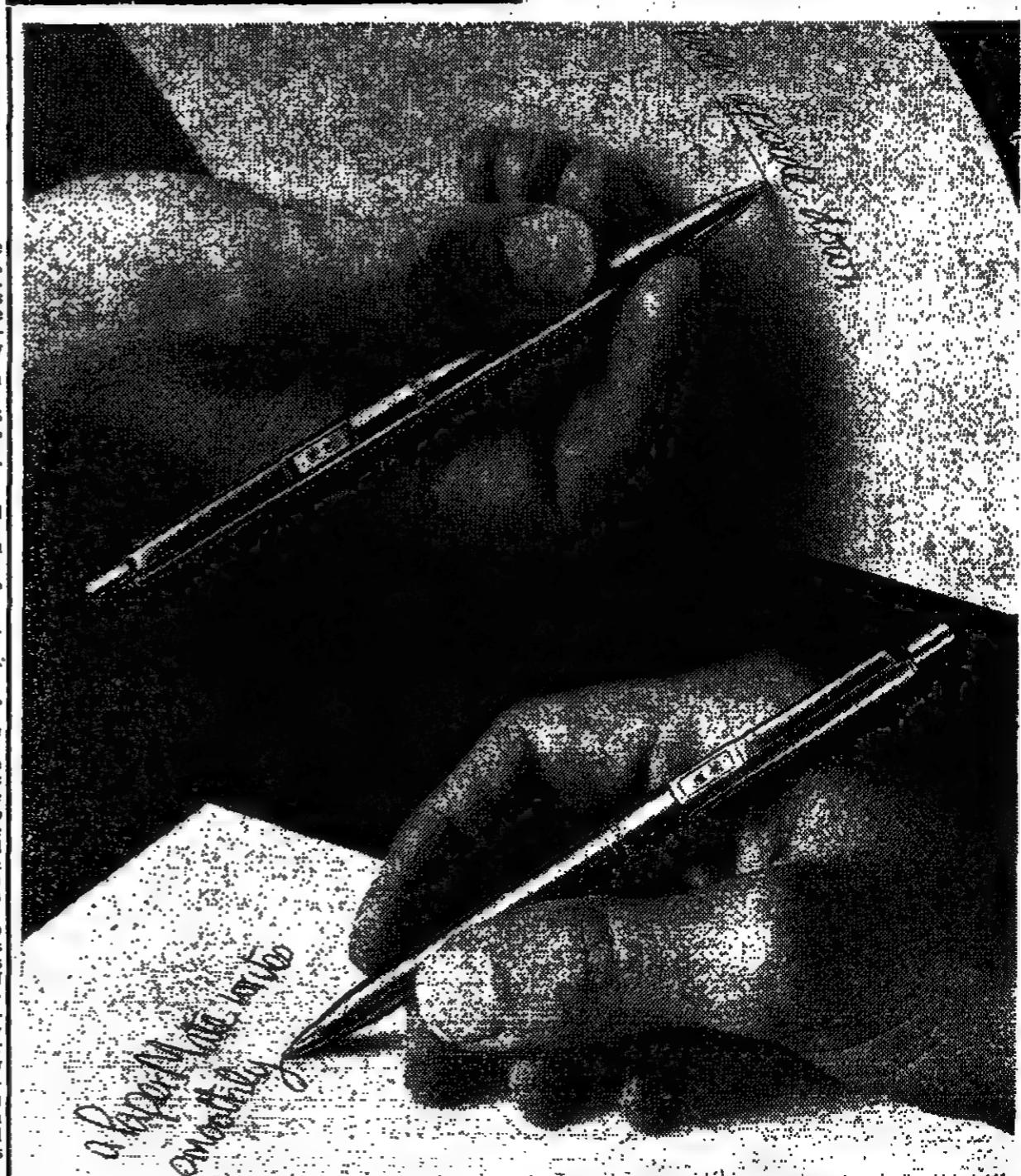
Within six months the Mulready envelope was dead, killed by ridicule. Its complete failure was the public's rejection that almost the entire stock had to be destroyed by a machine constructed for the purpose.

Richard Sachs

MONT BLANC noblesse

Precise, elegant. The Mont Blanc 'Noblesse' range of pens has been designed for people who expect a pen to do a little more than just write.

Mont Blanc pens are available from Harrods, Asprey, Fortnum and Mason, The Pen Shop (Burlington Arcade), Pencraft (Regent Street), Royal Exchange, Kingsway, Fountain Pen Exchange (Upper Regent Street), Selfridges and other leading pen stockists in the U.K. For details of your nearest stockist write to: Norpens Limited, 17 Kirkdale Road, Leytonstone E11 1HR.



Brushed chrome pen £3.95

Before you pay good money for a pen, put it through the Paper Mate test

Only Paper Mate has a pump that lets you write at any angle, even upside down. However much you pay for an ordinary ballpoint it can't match a Paper Mate.

Paper Mate's unique pump works like a tiny heart, driving ink continuously to the point as you write, and controlling its flow.

So a Paper Mate writes more smoothly and evenly than any ordinary ballpoint. What's more a Paper Mate will go on writing at any angle, even upside down. The Paper Mate test takes just a few seconds. At prices from 99p to £1.40 it could make the gift of a lifetime.

PAPER MATE - the ultimate ballpoint

EXCLUSIVE!
PERSONAL
STATIONERY OFFER
FROM THE
WORLD
WILDLIFE FUND

The World Wildlife Fund is offering distinctive, personalised stationery that will support Wildlife with every letter you write.

You can enjoy the luxury of two of Britain's most distinguished brands of stationery - personalised for little more than the price of ordinary writing paper.

By far the most popular paper in Britain, *Basilion Bond* is a favourite for every pen and handwriting style.

And with its superlative texture, *Three Candlessticks* is probably the most distinctive paper ever watermarked.

CHOICE OF COLOURS AND STYLES

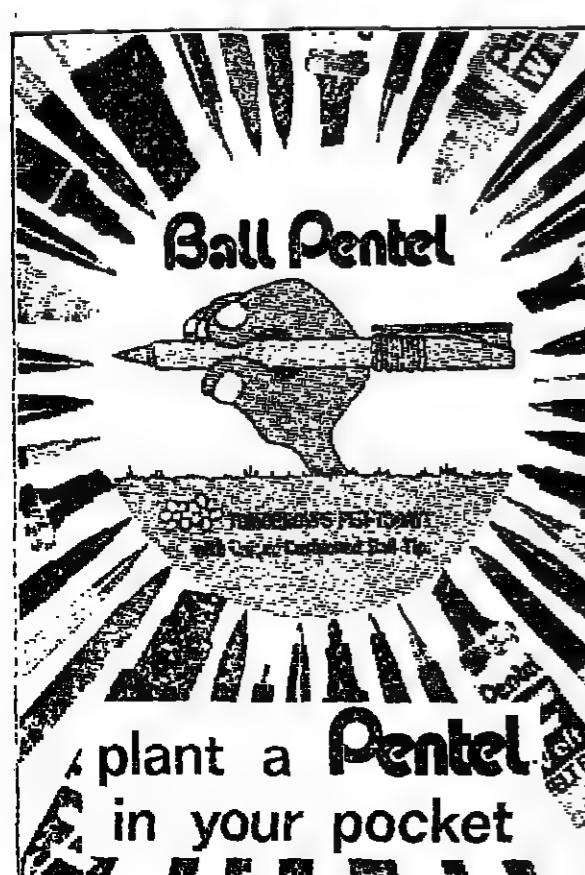
Both papers come in attractive cabinets of 200 sheets (8 inches by 6 inches) and 100 matching envelopes, in a range of subtle colours.

Our free brochure also offers you a personal choice of address heading styles and colours. Or you can save time and leave this all to us, by ordering from the coupon below.

We'll deliver all orders received by December 6 before Xmas, if we possibly can, first class post permitting.

Whether for yourself or for a gift, don't miss this opportunity to acquire truly distinctive writing paper that will express your good taste and support the World Wildlife Fund at the same time.

Postscript: *Panda House*, 21 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 8AA.



Foreign Report

The 14-year wait for justice in Alabama

In 1963, Birmingham, Alabama, was "described" by Governor Wagner of New York as "a synonym for barbarism and brutality". A newly-revived story of crime and (long delayed) punishment illustrates, if no other single event, the social revolution which has transformed that city in the past 14 years.

On Sunday, September 15, 1963, when sticks of dynamite exploded against the wall of the negro 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, four young black girls, members of the church choir, were killed in the blast. Fourteen years and two months later, on November 18, 1977, Robert Chambliss, now 73, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, was found guilty of first degree murder by a Birmingham court and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Birmingham, industrial centre of Alabama, neighbouring state of President Carter's native Georgia, was the most fervid bastion of white supremacy in the United States in 1963. Blacks could not attend white theatres, restaurants and hotels. They could not use the same elevators as whites. Even in death they were divided in deathbed caskets. Birmingham had two sets of schools, parks, hospitals; even drinking fountains.

With the growth of the civil rights movement, the blacks of Birmingham, and their white liberal supporters (these "white" negroes from the north) moved more and more out of the black ghettos, joined the swelling protest. The civil rights aspiration sparked a reaction from white supremacists and no fewer than 50 bombings directed at the blacks took place in the Birmingham area. No bomber was discovered or prosecuted. On May 3, 1963, a demonstration led by Martin Luther King was brutally dispersed by the use of fire hoses and police dogs. In charge of the police was Commissioner "Bull" Connor who, it was said, "wore his history like a badge of pride".

But the television cameras were there to force and through them, the railroads and society of the police rednecks was exposed on millions of screens throughout the nation. The American people were aroused and the widespread expressions of outrage forced the white leaders in Birmingham to abandon racial intransigence and begin talking to the blacks about sensible co-operation.

Not so Mr George Wallace, Governor, and indomitable boss of Alabama. He would not be party, he said, to any "compromise on the issue of segregation". His election slogan had been, "Segregation tomorrow! Segregation forever!" A month

after the May 1963 violence, Mr Wallace, defying the law which he denounced as "illegal and unconstitutional", prevented two negroes from registering at the University of Alabama and honoured the promise to "stand in the schoolhouse door" to bar their entry.

Then came the September blast in Birmingham, a murder which reminded that the white racists were still to be reckoned with. On the same day, the Rev. John Clegg, minister of the 16th Street Baptist Church, said of the four deaths: "They certainly should be on the conscience of Governor George Wallace, a very high public official, only to defy the law. I feel it has a tendency to incite violence." In a statement deplored the bombing. Governor Wallace pointedly made no reference to bringing the criminals to justice.

Nor was there any evident enthusiasm for the enforcement of the law manifested by the police departments. The FBI, Birmingham police and state authorities all joined in the investigation. But the long tradition of selective justice in the South seemed to prevail: the Birmingham police in particular rarely confronted the white perpetrators of crimes against the blacks. And the Baptist church bombing seemed no exception.

In March, 1964, the police arrested a 30-year-old Indiana labourer on suspicion and subsequently released him. Three months later it was announced that the suspect was living in Atlanta, but no more was heard of that. At the end of 1964, the FBI said that a small group of Klansmen was responsible, but that there was insufficient evidence to make an arrest. In fact, all the evidence which accrued the 1977 conviction had been collected in 1964.

Thereafter a long silence. In the meantime, Alabama in 1970 acquired a new, young, socially conscious and ambitious Attorney-General, Mr Bill Baxley, who determined not to let the matter rest. He says that he asked the FBI for the files in 1971 but did not receive them until 1975.

In February, 1976, Mr Baxley announced, "we know who did it" and the police resumed questioning of a number of men who had been members of the KKK in the sixties. Another year and a half passed before Robert Chambliss of North Birmingham was indicted in September this year on four counts of murder. His trial, which began on November 14, ended four days later with his conviction.

The evidence in court proved that Chambliss was in possession of dynamite at the time of the 1963 bombing, that he was a Klansman and had been previously arrested for beating a black man while wearing his handcuffs.

Images die hard and Birmingham is still remembered for the police dogs and fire hoses of 1963. But the city has come a long way in the past 14 years. In 1977, Birmingham, Ala., is thoroughly integrated. With the Chambliss case it has finally exorcised its racist past.

William Franklin

How Britain and the US landed in a row

Britain and the United States are hoping to resolve a long and acrimonious dispute over competing new aircraft landing systems by taking part in a series of "fly-overs" at European and American airports.

The Americans are confident that the trials at such locations as Brussels, Kristiansand in Norway and Kennedy airport in New York will prove once and for all that their advanced all-weather landing system known as TSB (standing for Time Reference Scanning Beam) is the more effective. The British, on the other hand, are equally convinced that their so-called Doppler system will demonstrate its superiority. Both systems employ microwaves to guide aircraft safely to the ground.

The stakes are high since the winning system will almost certainly be adopted internationally to replace existing landing systems which rely on more troublesome radio signals. Nevertheless, the odds are heavily weighted in favour of the American system since an international group of experts has already tentatively chosen the TSB as the preferred candidate.

It was during the initial stages of the selection process, carried out by the experts appointed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (Ica) that the Transatlantic row broke out. Until that time the various countries concerned had shown a commendable modicum of common sense and altruism about the need for the adoption of a single world-wide landing system irrespective of its nationality.

Five countries put up their own candidates—the Americans and Australians submitting a TSB system, the British their Doppler system (which the United States had abandoned some time before in favour of the TSB), and the West Germans and the French their own less developed variants. It was agreed by all the participants that a final choice would be based on computer simulations and trials however for any of the systems, existing or new.

The body selected to provide the panel with all the necessary data about the competing systems was Lincoln Laboratories, an offshoot of the highly respected Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Although it was American, the British and others accepted its facilities as a neutral technical resource expecting it to provide data on all the systems quickly and freely to the interested parties.

In the British view, this undertaking never materialized. Many of the detailed findings uncovered by Lincoln Laboratories were never made available to them, while other data particularly damaging to the Doppler system was based on inaccurate information fed into the computer, the British maintain.

They were particularly incensed by the alleged discovery in Doppler equipment at such airports as Los Angeles and Brussels. When they tried to refine the findings by taking some Doppler equipment to Los Angeles for a practical test they were confronted by foot-dragging on the part of the Federal Aviation Administration, the branch of the Department of Transport which has been backing the TSB system, the British say.

When the panel met earlier this year to make their recommendations for a new international landing system the result was a foregone conclusion. An overwhelming majority voted in favour of the TSB and suggested that a final decision should be taken by a full meeting of Ica due to be held in Canada next spring.

Predictably Lincoln Laboratories and the FAA have responded with various accusations. They claim that the TSB is more reliable, cheaper and simpler to operate than its rivals. But this has not prevented the British Government and Plessey, which is continuing to develop the Doppler system, from mounting an impressive attack on the way the TSB was selected.

The allegation of foul play have proved sufficiently convincing to persuade some congressmen that there is a real need for the United States to be seen as having been scrupulously fair.

The anti-TSB lobby has also succeeded in casting some doubt about the integrity of the FAA, which is one of the few branches of the administration outside the direct control of political appointees. The fact that Congress has so far authorised funds totalling \$60-80m for the development of TSB has added to the concern of some members of Congress that the money should have been spent sensibly. Some critics in Washington contend that the TSB has run into technical problems which the American authorities are trying to hide.

If this is the case then the current round of practical demonstrations and a careful scrutiny of the findings of the TSB, which have now been made available to the British, could end the dispute once and for all.

A more likely outcome, however, is that neither the tests nor the computer simulations will prove conclusive.

If, as many people suspect, the dispute has not been resolved by next spring, a final decision may be postponed until a later date. This would irk the Americans in particular, since their needs for more sophisticated landing equipment are most urgent.

David Cross

The so-called civilization that is strangling the Cook Islands



Unloading stores at Manihiki, 650 miles north of Rarotonga.

Cooks today, though, has more to do with the whole will of the time than it does with topical opportunism: what the time includes and what it is prepared to discard. Since the early 1900s, there has been no looking back for Polynesia. It is an old tragedy. The past has been snubbed by greed, imported diseases and religious bullying. Today, there are simply no precedents. Economically pinioned from the outside, with its cultural backbone broken and its rich artistic and realistic sources of life cut off by the missionaries, what the Cook Islands people do not turn completely, desperately to the black pressur, while their integrity and communal spirit dwindle to extinction?

What will be the effects of the mammoth Hongkong concern slowly buying up control of the Cooks' trading facilities and island passenger-cargo facilities? More than a million dollars has been paid recently in the Chinese acquisition of the A. B. Donald Company and the Cook Islands Trading Company, two of the oldest, largest firms in the South Seas. What will that mean, in time?

Known too long as the last unspoiled place in the South Pacific, the Cooks are the scene of a shrinking, asphyxiated existence, despite the busier pace of life and statistical gains. Life there is not going ahead, it is merely becoming a new marker for foreign trade. This is a new situation, a present-day tragedy, something apart from the age-old territorial plight of Polynesia.

If there were, as in the Kingdom of Tonga, more independent, far sighted leaders to stand up against the ponderous airports and outside economic and religious interference, then the picture might slowly change and clear, and the Cooks might well rediscover, bring back and develop the best of their fragmented past and look to their own exemplary, ethnic future.

Jackson Webb

Contracts and Tenders

Ministry of Mines and Energy

Eletrosul Centrais Elétricas Brasileiras SA

Eletrosul Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil SA

Saito Santiago Hydroelectric Project Pre-Qualification Notice to Suppliers of Emergency Diesel-Generator Sets

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A. — Eletrosul, will invite bids from qualified manufacturers (selected by means of the pre-qualification of which this notice refers) for the manufacture and supply of the following equipment for the above-mentioned project, situated on the Iguaçu River, state of Paraná, Brazil:

— one 1000 kVA emergency diesel-generator set, with power and control cabinet, power transformer, circuit breaker, and auxiliary equipment.

Each bid to be invited shall cover all equipment specified above.

For the payment of the above materials, Eletrosul has available funds from the Inter-American Development Bank — IADB under loan 289/OC-BR, which has already been granted.

Participation in the present pre-qualification will be limited to manufacturers established in member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank, developing countries which are members of the International Monetary Fund and/or developed countries which, on the date of the invitation, have been declared eligible for this purpose by the bank.

The "Instruction for Pre-Qualification Proposals" will be available to the applicants, free of charge, until December 20, 1977 at the following address:

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A. — Eletrosul
Diretoria de Suprimentos
Rua Trajano 33 — 3.º andar
Telex 0482164
88.000 — Florianópolis — Santa Catarina
Brazil

Parliamentary Notices

In Parliament Session 1977-78

British Transport Docks

Notice is hereby given that APPLICATION is being made to Parliament in the name of the British Transport Docks Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") for the sale of the Board's assets and liabilities for the purpose of which the following is a concise summary:

Complaints are made in the City of Gloucester in the county of Gloucester that the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the district of the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

In the County of Gloucester in the Forest of Dean in the County of Gloucester, the Board's assets and liabilities are not being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 1976.

John Foord
CHARTERED SURVEYORSJohn Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Shipyard workers asked to 'black' Polish orders lost by Swan Hunter

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Shipyard workers throughout Britain were being asked to "black" any of the seven Polish vessels worth £52m which are being transferred from the Swan Hunter yards on Tyneside to other yards because of an overtime ban by 1,700 overtime workers there.

Today telegrams will be sent to those yards which have benefited, or are likely to benefit, from the loss of the contracts to Swan, after the rejecting earlier this week of a recommendation that the overtime workers lift their overtime ban.

Letters are also being sent to all shipyards throughout the country calling on workers not to cooperate in the building of any diverted vessels.

The latest move by the cut-fit workers' shop stewards was a widening of the dispute which had already badly dent the industry's reputation overseas. It came at a time when executives of British Shipbuilders were hoping that a change of heart by the weekend would still allow at least some of the seven ships to be confirmed with Swan Hunter.

Drawsmen at the Tyneside yard who drew up the plans for the 16,500-ton dead-weight ships which form part of the £15m deal have also refused to allow plans of the ships to leave the Wallsend

yard in a further attempt to prevent the ships being diverted to other yards.

The campaign was stepped up yesterday after a meeting between the shipwrights and the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Mr E. Hanson, chairman of the shop stewards committee, said: "We are asking yards that could get the work not to touch any work that should have come to the Tyneside yards which will receive the work include Govan Shipbuilders (which has already been allocated one of the seven ships), Austin & Pickersgill and Sunderland Shipbuilders on the river Wear, and Smith's Dock on the Tees.

Shop stewards at Govan have adopted a wait and see posture towards the switching of the order after approaches from the Tyneside shop stewards and workers' representatives at Govan. They will meet again next week to review the order in the light of further developments on Tyneside.

But last night Mr Ken Baker,

a part-time member of the British Shipbuilders board and national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said on the industry's behalf to "this very carefully" before refusing to handle any of the diverted orders.

NEB set profit target of 15 to 20pc by 1981

By Edward Townsend

The National Enterprise Board has been given a target of a 15-20 per cent return on its investments by 1981. But the requirement specifically excludes British Leyland, its largest subsidiary, and Rolls-Royce, the Department of Industry, with Treasury approval. They were reversed to MPs yesterday in a written answer from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

The target has been based on the NEB's forecast that the return on capital employed throughout manufacturing industry in 1981 will be about 20 per cent.

But the board said that Mr Varley had recognized that its purposes were wider than those of commercial enterprises and was able in appropriate cases

to take a long-term view of investment opportunities.

As a result, the NEB has been given the target of 15-20 per cent and urged by Mr Varley to achieve a result "at least as good as this, and to the maintenance of steady progress towards that objective".

The responsibility does not cover NEB loans to companies in which it has no share investment or rights to buy shares, or government aid under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975. NEB holdings in Leyland and Rolls-Royce are to be judged separately at a later date.

Under its terms, the NEB guidelines, the board is already required to charge interest on loans it makes to subsidiaries or other companies at a rate not less than that paid by commercial companies when raising finance.

Desire for financial independence turned to "money-making for its own sake"

How Crown Agents took high-risk way to ruin

By Bryan Appleyard

The Fay Report on the Crown Agents tells the story of an organization chasing financial independence and grabbing at the opportunity presented by the fringe banking and property boom of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The agents' "remarkable will to live" pushed them into a critical change in their financial operation in 1968.

Previously profits from services had been distributed to the foreign government principals on a cooperative

basis. This was abandoned in favour of a policy of building up a reserve of £3m by the end of 1971.

This was a move towards business independence and Fay accepts the motives as genuine enough. The timing, however, was the real problem.

The Crown Agents began to feel the squeeze on financial resources as precisely the time when one of their largest ships, Austin & Pickersgill and Sunderland Shipbuilders on the river Wear, and Smith's Dock on the Tees.

Shop stewards at Govan have adopted a wait and see posture towards the switching of the order after approaches from the Tyneside shop stewards and workers' representatives at Govan. They will meet again next week to review the order in the light of further developments on Tyneside.

But last night Mr Ken Baker,

a part-time member of the British Shipbuilders board and national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union,

said on the industry's behalf to "this very carefully" before refusing to handle any of the diverted orders.

Japan's reserves soared by \$2.57bn (about £1.427m) in November to a record level of £22.150m.

This is the second largest jump in their reserves ever recorded and results from the strenuous attempts of the Bank of Japan to hold down the value of the yen.

These attempts were at first largely unsuccessful. The yen appreciated to new highs on the foreign exchanges during last

days, the rate has come back. It closed last night at 242.8 to the dollar.

Speculative inflows of money



Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, at yesterday's press conference. With her is Mr John Cuckney, Senior Crown Agent

A vehicle called Finvest was set up and total liabilities of the order of £50m were accumulated after 18 months. The first property lending was in July 1967 and the first fringe bank appeared in October 1968 in the form of

the First National Finance Corporation which was lost £1m.

In spite of the fact that there was only one accountant on the staff until November 1970, the alarm bells seem to have been remarkably few. One did

ring at the Bank of England in 1969.

into Japan have swelled recently the official reserves in the same way as happened in Britain this year while the Bank was trying to keep a lid on the sterling exchange

The \$5.430m rise in Japan's reserves over the last year is considerably below that in Britain.

Most of the rise in Japan has come in the last two months as the dollar has been falling and foreign currency dealers have switched to yen.

Despite the official intervention, the yen has climbed by about 10 per cent against the dollar since the end of September.

It is also thought that the

Japanese authorities have built up considerable "hidden" reserves. The fall in the yen in the past few days is largely due to the market's expectation that substantial measures to lower Japan's trade surplus will be announced in a government package next Tuesday.

The dollar was generally weaker again yesterday as new positions were taken up at the beginning of the month. It fell to DM2.213, and 2.1425 Swiss francs.

Sterling also lost ground in effective terms, losing 0.25 points on the trade weighted index to close at 63.3. It gained 5 points against the dollar at £1.175.

Assurance on bank lending 'corset'

By Our Economic Staff

If necessary, to ease money control, the Government will re-examine the "corset" on bank lending, although at the moment last week's 2-point rise in minimum lending rate is expected to be sufficient according to

the authorities had recognized that the attempts to hold down the value of the pound had led to lower interest rates than

during the past year has saved about £200m (£250m in public spending on debt interest in the current financial year, it was stated).

The Government's decision to allow MLR to rise last week was also explained.

Treasury ministers admitted that from mid-August to mid-October there was official concern about the speed of the fall in interest rates.

were justifiable in terms of domestic market pressures.

There was no clear trend yet observable in bank lending, and it was too soon to say that the rise in October would be continued.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one reflecting corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted our employees will reduce from 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.</p

British Gas in Monopolies panel scrutiny of appliance sector

A Monopolies Commission investigation of three main gas appliance sectors announced yesterday, will scrutinize the pricing and other policies of the British Gas Corporation which accounts for 75 per cent of the retail side of this £120m-a-year market.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has asked the Commission to report within two years on sales of gas cookers, gas fires and instantaneous gas water heaters.

This will mean an investigation of appliance manufacturers, of which three—Thorn, United Gas Industries and Tube Investments—are thought to be in a monopoly manufacturing position of as least 25 per cent of their market in each of the three appliance sectors.

Mr Borrie's preliminary investigations have shown that

substantial discounts have been obtained by British Gas from manufacturers because of their retail dominance.

The role of British Gas in carrying out the larger part of the advertising for all the appliances will also be looked at because it might be felt that an independent retailer may get less opportunity to expand in the market.

Part of these wider margins might be attributable to the after sales and services service which British Gas provides, said Mr Borrie. "They might reflect some subsidizing of relatively low charges for servicing and may also subsidize a wide network for after-sales servicing such as exists for electrical appliances."

The Commission will also scrutinize the manufacturers' export performance which since 1973 has been significantly inferior to that of foreign competitors' penetration of the British market.

The Commission has been asked to look into complaints from independent retailers of difficulties in getting delivery from manufacturers, possibly because British Gas has had

agreements with the manufacturers' close ties with British Gas have played a role in their not developing a wide network for after-sales servicing such as exists for electrical appliances.

The Commission will also

scrutinize the manufacturers'

export performance which since

1973 has been significantly

inferior to that of foreign

competitors' penetration of the

British market.

There was a good chance of reaching an agreement tomorrow, officials said.

But according to Mr David Jordan, Hongkong's Director of Trade, Industry and Customs, there was "still one major element" in the EEC's proposals which was unacceptable.

The EEC was demanding that Hongkong reduce its exports of four categories of textiles to below the 1976 level. Hongkong could see no justification for this, Mr Jordan said.

The reduction was being requested not to protect the EEC industry but to enable Hongkong's quota to be redistributed to other suppliers.

Initially, the EEC demanded

that Hongkong cut its textile

exports from the 1976 level of

151,000 tonnes to about 138,000 tonnes. It now seems likely that Hongkong will be allowed a higher import quota provided it accepts sharp cuts in a number of very sensitive items.

The South Koreans have

EEC 'stops clock' to complete talks with textile exporting countries on quotas

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 1

Talks continued today between the EEC and a number of major textile exporting countries despite the expiry at midnight yesterday of the deadline set by the European Commission for the conclusion of these bilateral negotiations with more than 30 countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

EEC officials said that "the clock had been stopped" to enable "intensive" discussions to continue with Hongkong, South Korea, Hungary, Romania, Poland and a dozen Mediterranean countries with whom the Community has preferential trade agreements.

The Commission claimed that there was a large measure of agreement with Hongkong, which is the EEC's biggest supplier with about 15 per cent of total imports of low-cost textiles in recent years. There

was a good chance of reaching an agreement tomorrow, officials said.

But according to Mr David Jordan, Hongkong's Director of Trade, Industry and Customs, there was "still one major element" in the EEC's proposals which was unacceptable.

The EEC was demanding that Hongkong reduce its exports of four categories of textiles to below the 1976 level. Hongkong could see no justification for this, Mr Jordan said.

The reduction was being requested not to protect the EEC industry but to enable Hongkong's quota to be redistributed to other suppliers.

Initially, the EEC demanded

that Hongkong cut its textile

exports from the 1976 level of

151,000 tonnes to about 138,000 tonnes. It now seems likely that Hongkong will be allowed a higher import quota provided it accepts sharp cuts in a number of very sensitive items.

The South Koreans have

Rolls hope of fresh deal with China

China is interested in buying Rolls-Royce engines for a range of industrial and marine applications, including the pumping of gas and oil, a senior company executive said yesterday.

Mr Donald Penner, Rolls-Royce vice-chairman, gave the news during a visit by Mr Li Chiang, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister, to the company's Derby factory.

He said China had expressed an interest in a number of Rolls-Royce products in addition to present purchases, and he forecast that the company was in the early stages of a relationship with China which could develop greatly over the next 20 to 30 years.

Rolls-Royce have had close links with China for many years. The company signed a major deal worth nearly £100m two

years ago, to supply a range of industrial and marine applications, including the pumping of gas and oil, a senior company executive said yesterday.

Mr Ronald McIntosh, the retiring Director General of the National Economic Development Office, made these points in the 1977 Sir Alfred Harbert paper presented to the Institution of Production Engineers at Leicester University.

Sir Ronald said that Britain's non-economic achievements of the last 30 years—chiefly the establishment of welfare state and the peaceful transition from an imperial power to a member of the EEC—were significant.

However, the economic price paid for them, in terms of slow growth, was a heavy one.

Three main objectives for in-

dustry policy were set out, with the aim of combating the serious threat to employment and exports by the emergence of semi-industrialized developing countries, efficient manufacturing and improving Britain's industrial performance.

First, Britain should concentrate on producing goods and services with a high research and development content, using the considerable skills available.

Secondly, the basic infrastructure of the engineering industry should be strengthened. This would not come about just through market forces. Sir Ronald said: "Policy on taxation and using intervention in industry through the National Enterprise Board should be aimed at helping the manufacturers of the EEC were significant.

Thirdly, the marketing function in industry should be improved.

How best to use North Sea oil and how to stop, and if possible reverse, the decline of Britain's manufacturing sector were yesterday named as Britain's major industrial goals.

Sir Ronald McIntosh, the re-

turning Director General of the National Economic Development Office, made these points in the 1977 Sir Alfred Harbert paper presented to the Institution of Production Engineers at Leicester University.

Sir Ronald said that Britain's

non-economic achievements of

the last 30 years—chiefly the

establishment of welfare state

and the peaceful transition from an imperial power to a member of the EEC—were significant.

However, the economic price paid for them, in terms of slow growth, was a heavy one.

Thirdly, the marketing function in industry should be improved.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-centred and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourism from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

</

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BP-with Alaskan earnings to come

BP's product sales are heavily weighted towards Western Europe, and its trading performance, like that of so many other companies which are strong in this area, duly reflects the dismal conditions compounded in France's case by price controls—prevailing in most markets. Weak demand has been reflected in prices so that, while costs are up, realizations are down and with the dollar weak as well, third-quarter net income of £44.1m is a good £5m or more below the lower range of stock market forecasts. It is a depressingly familiar story, and leave BP's net income down both on the £75.7m of the second quarter and the £51.9m of the third quarter last year, although for the first three-quarters earnings are up from £124m to £210m.

But the key for BP, and the factor which makes it a more attractive investment than Shell, is the transformation it is about to undergo. During the third quarter Alaska oil began flow for the first time. The build up has had some teething problems, leaving BP with both a \$16m loss on its share of the pipeline and lower earnings from its stake in Sohio, but in the final quarter Alaska should be positive and it will then feed through very strongly indeed during the first half of next year, culminating in an increase in the Sohio stake from about 40 per cent at the end of this year to 53 per cent, probably by about next June.

The impact on 1978 earnings, given that Forties will still be building up as well, will be dramatic. Net income will almost certainly be more than doubled from this year's likely £300m or more, with the prospect of still more impressive growth to come in the subsequent two years.

Meanwhile, there is reason to look for more good news for BP, both in terms of its North Sea exploration and the level of Alaskan reserves which should do much to offset the continuing dullness of its main European markets. So far there is no sign of a trading upturn, but BP's shares, 900p last night where they sell at about 11 times prospective earnings, should be held more for the fundamental prospects of the next three years than the immediate trading conditions.

Racial

Profits are not the problem

Racial is now holding its breath hoping that the cold wind blowing from the Old Bailey, where two former executives face corruption charges, will die down. Meanwhile, with £19.4m profits under its belt at the interim stage, the group is forecasting not less than £45 for the year—an indicated 37½ per cent gain which since it will probably turn out to be conservative anyway fits in well with the sort of compound growth Racial has been achieving for several years now. When a company grows as fast as this questions are bound to be asked about whether the pace can be maintained.

This factor coupled with the resignation of Racial's deputy chairman this week ensured that yesterday's half-year statement would get a less than enthusiastic reception from the market. The shares, weak for some time now, ended the day 1p better at 208p. Here Racial followers are beginning to put up cogent arguments for a "buying opportunity"—though given a yield of only 2.8 per cent that must be based on the third widening of the margin between the base and deposit rates to 4.35 per cent in the second half.

It is true that at the moment everything seems to be going well. The only slight cloud so far this year—and one which already shows signs of disappearing—is strategic communications. Otherwise, Racial can point to profits of some £10m due this year from data communications, an undoubted growth area which suggests that the acquisition of Milgo in the United States earlier this year was right despite the fact that it temporarily changed the profile of the balance sheet.

Still, with some £48m of cash and real progress being made towards rescheduling dollar debt after the Milgo acquisition, Racial is well able to make another sizable move in the near future. It badly wants to get involved in any restructuring of the telecommunications business in this country and there are signs that the Government, NEB and the Post Office would now like to see changes of this sort take place.

But Racial, as I have said before, is at an important transitional stage between being

a large medium-sized company and a large company. Moreover, untoward factors are making that transition painful, a point that is not lost on the institutions who have for some time been heavy investors in Racial. Their attitude, more than anything else, will dictate what happens to the share price during the next six months, and at the moment they show characteristic signs of nervousness.

Bass

Lifting the depression

Results from Bass Charrington yesterday went some way towards dispelling the clouds of gloom which had been gathering over the brewery sector even before Whitbread announced disappointing results earlier this month.

But, as Bass itself points out ahead of delicate discussions with Mr Hattersley, most of the 32 per cent pre-tax profits increase to £90.4m is due to loss

elimination: last year's figures being depressed by a £4.5m provision against the value of Bordeaux wine stocks and a cautious £7.4m provision for exchange differences.

So, far in Bass's defensive characteristics which has seen the shares outperform the market by twice the 14 per cent sector average over the last 12 months has been further enhanced. The shares gained 9p to 161p yesterday where the p/e ratio is well in line with the industry average at under 10 and the yield rather lower at just over 4 per cent.

That could provide the cue for some profit-taking, particularly as there are fears that Mr Hattersley will come down on the side of the recent controversial Price Commission report on the industry.

But Bass still has two aces up its sleeve: one concerns the view that beer sales could start to move ahead again sharply on the back of a consumer spending upturn—with Lager leading the way. The other is the dividend: this year's payment is 3.4 times covered and a boost of at least 50 per cent would be possible if restraints are lifted.

Such unevenness between the two halves at National and Commercial Banking—pre-tax profits were only 5 per cent ahead at £31.1m in the opening half but jumped 12 per cent to £35m in the second despite the 4.5 per cent drop in average base rate to 8.4 per cent—is not altogether explained by the third widening of the margin between the base and deposit rates to 4.35 per cent in the second half.

There were, it is true, some compensating factors in the share of continued momentum in the level of advances, especially at Royal Bank of Scotland, which were 6 per cent ahead on the year, profits from gilts (running yields rather than realizations which are amortized over a five-year period), and a £1.2m increase in associates thanks to increased profits from Lloyds & Scottish, FFI and loss elimination in Australia.

But it also looks as though the sterling money book recovered some of its composure after a dicey first half while the rise in bad debt provisions in the first half may have tailed off.

So it looks as though NatCom's results, normally a fair guide to the London clearers' profits because only a quarter of its earnings are overseas, may be misleading. The shares gained 4p to 74p on the results where the yield of 5.4 per cent is about par for the sector.

Faced with this melancholy

On May 13, 1974, a meeting was held in Whitehall attended by Sir Jasper Hollom, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Sir Douglas Mass, the Treasury Permanent Secretary. Also present was Sir Claude Hayes, senior Crown Agent. In the words of Sir Jasper: "We went into that meeting perfectly clear that in all ordinary terms the Crown Agents were busy, or were capable of being busy".

The collapse of the Crown Agents-backed Stern property group was threatened and, no one had any illusions about the possible impact. What was more critical, no one had a balance sheet. There and there, a Crown Agent officer, drafted one on the back of an envelope.

This, for the purposes of history, was the moment of truth after the years of privatization in high places during which a string of journalists, which did not attract the attention of the vulnerability of an unincorporated historic organization providing a honeypot for speculators, financiers and property developers.

Yesterday's report of the three-man committee of inquiry is one of the most astonishing documents to be published in modern times, chronicling what the Government has immediately described as a failure to apply the normal principles of public accountability.

Whether the judgment was correct, without benefit of access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

Maurice Corrigan assesses the 2½-year-long investigation into the Crown Agents

A chronicle of catastrophe

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation, both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated.

after two years of evidence. They now have, too, the previously confidential report prepared by a team led by Sir Matthew Stowen, which before the storm broke had advised redefining the status of the organization established in 1833 to raise loans and procure supplies for colonial governments.

It is a matter of fact that in October, 1968, when Sir Claude Hayes succeeded as chairman of the Crown Agents, The Times in examining the organization then being placed in his stewardship commented on its anomalous constitution and accountability and stated: "The chief task to be done is to make it really accountable."

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again. In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay team could damage the Crown Agents. But for the insistence of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently delayed.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of

access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already, in setting at the front, the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

UKO International ahead despite slide in margins

UKO International, formerly UK Optical & Industrial Holdings, which earlier this year successfully escaped from the clutches of Pitman International, reports an increase in pre-tax profits of 5 per cent to £1.5m for the six months to September 30.

Turnover on the other hand jumped from £16.1m to £19.0m sending margins sliding from 11.1 per cent to 9.3 per cent. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 4.4p gross compared with 4.0p for the corresponding period.

The board reports that demand at home and abroad for the group's products has remained well below normal levels throughout the half-year. The increase in sales on the

other hand was largely attributable to the effect of recent acquisitions by the group. The increase in profits was only partly attributable to these, but nevertheless.

The capital expenditure programme undertaken by UKO in recent years is yielding increased profits, but this has been hampered by output and labour problems in certain areas. Steps however are being taken to eliminate these problems. Another factor which also reduced the contribution to profits was the adverse exchange rates on conversion of profits from overseas branches.

At present however the board says that the group is well placed in all markets to

take immediate advantage of a upturn in demand.

Sales of the group's catering equipment division were satisfactory during the first six months and prospects for exports are brighter than

some time.

The volume and value of export inquiries on hand at the end of the half year were much higher than in the recent past.

Profits were satisfactory and would have been higher but for the effects of a labour dispute during the first half.

Results of the group which is the world's second largest maker of ophthalmic glass lenses, rose 26 per cent to £4.17m for the year to March 31. News of the results set the

shares back up to 177p

22 pc jump but Mitchell Cotts sees downswing

By Tony May

No great improvement in profits was expected by Mitchell Cotts for the year to June 30 so the 22 per cent advance to a record £11.6m before tax came as a surprise.

However, a 21 per cent rise in South Africa—which the group is disputing—has prompted a non-recurring provision of £546,000 and this has pushed down the attributable profits from £3.2m to £2.7m. Another factor here was the cost of closing down the remnants of the group's steel operations in Canada.

Earnings a share are up from 7.2p to 8.0p and the dividend is raised from 5.12p to 5.15p gross.

This gives a yield of 11.4 per cent and is covered 2.1 times by earnings with 2.15 times by pence.

Mr J. K. Dick, the chairman of this commodities, transport and engineering group, believes that there "may well be a reduction in the level of pre-tax profit" for the current year. But he sees no reason why the group's attributable profits after all charges and extraordinary items, should not show an increase.

More Financial News on Page 28.

A breakdown of the group's activities shows that engineering is still far and away the biggest activity, followed by freight transport and storage. Both of these divisions made up slightly less of the group's total operating profits this last year reflecting the growth of the agriculture and commodity trading activities.

Despite the achievement of best-ever profits from South Africa, improvements in profit in other regions have diminished the percentage contribution from this source from 81 per cent to 68 per cent. The United Kingdom's share went up from 14 per cent to 16 per cent while East and Central Africa advanced its share of profits from 16 per cent to 20 per cent. Losses in Europe, North and South America and Australia cost only 4 per cent of profit against 11 per cent last year.

Growth continues and the latest purchase was that of Hawking Transport Services for the United Kingdom transport side of the business. This cost the group £500,000 but by a placing of shares.

The group's exports have increased in value by 25 per cent over the same period last year and Sir Jack reports that there is strong overseas demand for the company's products which he considers are still competitive despite the rise in sterling.

An interim dividend of 2.8p a share gross has been declared compared with 2.5p. The prospective total dividend for the year is 6.08p, on the basis of a 10 per cent increase, which, with the shares up 1p to 80 yesterday, provides a yield of 3.2 per cent.

Following last year's rights issue which raised £5m, interest charges in the first half have declined from £1.03m to £792,000.

Turnover drops but 600 Gp up 13 pc

By Our Financial Staff

After a cautious approach to the current year's financial report by Sir Jack Wallings, the chairman of the 600 Group, the company has managed a 13 per cent pre-tax profit increase to £5.44m in the 28 weeks to October 15.

The increase was achieved despite a £2m drop in turnover over £93m and operating profit margins improved considerably from 7.4 per cent to 8.1 per cent with operating profits rising from £7.0m to £7.65m.

The major boost to the company came from the machine tool and engineering divisions and from the overseas companies, according to the chairman. Last year the engineering products side of the group showed a strong advance in profits, which rose by nearly £1m to £2.63m, with the crane companies, now merged into Jones Cranes, making a substantial improvement.

The machine tool division has continued to see steady growth—last year profits rose from £3.5m to £4.57m.

However, in this first half the iron and steel division has continued to be affected by the recession in the world steel industry and saw a further downturn in the first 28 weeks of the year. Last year the group made a 26 per cent increase in profits to £2.3m.

Following last year's rights issue which raised £5m, interest charges in the first half have declined from £1.03m to £792,000.

Sir J Hodge buys Avana shares

In respect of coupons lodged prior to 30th November, 1977, at the United Kingdom branch, the currency equivalent of the rand currency value on 3rd January, 1978, or

(ii) in respect of coupons lodged during the period 1st January, 1977, to 31st January, 1978, both days inclusive at the United Kingdom branch, the currency equivalent of the rand currency value of their division on 9th January, 1978, or

(iii) in respect of coupons lodged on or before 5th January, 1978, at the United Kingdom branch, the currency equivalent of the rand currency value on 3rd January, 1978, or

Coupons must be left for at least four clear days for examination and may be presented any weekday (Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday) between 10.00 a.m. and 3 p.m.

United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from payments in United Kingdom currency. In respect of coupons deposited at the London Bevan Reception Office, unless such coupons are accompanied by a valid payment declaration, where such deduction is made, the net amount of the dividend will be reduced by 20000 cents per share arrived at as under:

South African currency cents per share

Amount of dividend 12

Less: South African non-resident shareholders 1.60670

Less: UK Income tax at 20.5550% of the gross amount of dividend of 12 cents 2.47600

7.92000

For and on behalf of ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED J. C. Gresham

London Office: 50 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ

2nd December, 1977

NOTE: The Company has been requested by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to state:

Under the double tax agreement between the United Kingdom and the Republic of South Africa, the South African non-resident shareholder's dividend is allowable as a credit against the United Kingdom tax payable in respect of dividends in respect of the reduced rate of 20.5550% instead of the basic rate of 24%. This represents an effective rate of credit at the rate of 13.5142%.

Ladbrooke buys 14 pc of Leisure & Gen

Ladbrooke Group has brought

1.5m shares or about 14.5 per cent of the capital of Leisure & General Holdings at 60p a share.

Of these shares, 1.49m

were formerly included in the financial results.

The price paid is the consideration being offered by Ladbrooke to all Leisure shareholders. It has

already received a cool reception from Leisure's board.

THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP BASE RATES

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and The British Bank of the Middle East

announce that their base rate for lending is being increased, with effect from 1st December, 1977

From 6% per annum to 7% per annum

Stock markets

Miners and BP put an end to rally

Equity prices drifted back from a firm start through a lack of sustained interest brought about, in part, by the miners' meeting with the Coal Board on pay.

The only main bar to further progress was a set of third-quarter figures from BP which were a disappointment even by the standards of the market's scaled down estimates.

Nevertheless, dealers regard the performance of the past two days as favouring the "bulls" rather than the "bears" with prices consolidating at around 480.0 on the FT Index. At last night's close of 479.8 it was 1.2 down on the day having stood 2.7 better at 11 am.

away in late trading to end with losses of up to half a point.

Longer dates stood up better to close, generally, around one quarter below their overnight level.

On their last day of trading

expectations had Bass Charrington up to the good at 161p and helped Guinness to gain 3p to 188p in tandem. As low as 199p

at one stage Racial picked up after figures and a bullish forecast to end 5p up to 208p.

Willows Francis, whose potential as a takeover candidate has

been mentioned here, was marked up 31p to 105p after

surprise terms from Guinness

last night, when its bid for

Bevan, was gained 5p to 190p.

Another steel group, went ahead at 282p. Figures deemed to

be satisfactory lifted National

Comet 4p to 74p and elicited a sympathetic gain of

10p to 283p from Bank of Scotland.

Figures well above market

expectations had Bass Charrington

up to the good at 161p and

helped Guinness to gain 3p to

188p in tandem. As low as 199p

at one stage Racial picked up

after figures and a bullish forecast to end 5p up to 208p.

Willows Francis, whose potential

as a takeover candidate has

been mentioned here, was marked up 31p to 105p after

surprise terms from Guinness

last night, when its bid for

Bevan, was gained 5p to 190p.

Another steel group, went ahead at 282p. Figures deemed to

be satisfactory lifted National

Comet 4p to 74p and elicited a sympathetic gain of

10p to 283p from Bank of

Scotland.

Shareholders in Graham Wood Steel Group should not sell

at 51p the shares have

been little since the jump of

November 20 on news of talks

about a possible bid. Yesterday

the directors simply

reported that talks continue.

One impression is that British

Steel is the party interested in

at least a large part of Wood,

and that the talks are now

about a price of 65p a share.

Grand Metropolitan, Great Universal Stores, Beecham, John Brown, Reed, Oil Exploration, Walker & Staff and Graham Wood.

BP partly paid Shell

BP, ICI, Commercial

Union, GEC, EMI, BAT Dif.

Shareholders in Graham Wood Steel Group should not sell

at 51p the shares have

been little since the jump of

November 20 on news of talks

about a possible bid. Yesterday

the directors simply

reported that talks continue.

One impression is that British

Steel is the party interested in

at least a large part of Wood,

and that the talks are now

about a price of 65p a share.

Grand Metropolitan, Great

Universal Stores, Beecham,

John Brown, Reed, Oil Exploration,

Walker & Staff and

Graham Wood.

Shareholders in Graham Wood Steel Group should not sell

at 51p the shares have

been little since the jump of

November 20 on news of talks

about a possible bid. Yesterday

the directors simply

reported that talks continue.

One impression is that British

Steel is the party interested in

at least a large part of Wood,

<p

Stock Exchange Prices **Leaders drift**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 28. Dealings End, Dec 9. § Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 20

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY

"Afore ye go"

Bank of Ireland

announces that the following rates will apply from and including

2nd December 1977

Base Lending Rate 7½% p.a.

Base Interest Rate for deposits 4% p.a.



Bank of Ireland

Standard Chartered

announce that on and after

2nd December, 1977

the following annual rates will apply:

Base rate 7½%

(Increased from 6%.)

Deposit rate 4%

(Increased from 3%.)

Standard Chartered
Bank Limited



Co-operative Bank

With effect from
2nd December, 1977
the following rates will apply

Base Rate Change

From 6% to 7% p.a.

Also:
7 Day Deposit Accounts 4% p.a.
1 Month Deposit Accounts 4½% p.a.

Our presence will make your heart grow fonder.

If you are resident overseas, the best way of keeping in touch with events back home is by reading The Times.

However, to reduce the cost of international wastage of postage, The Times has reduced the number of copies offered for airmail—both at home and abroad.

Don't risk losing touch. Place a subscription with us.

The Times and be sure of your daily copy.

For further information and subscription details, write to:
The Subscriptions Manager, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.



Barclays Bank Base Rate

Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 2nd December, 1977, their Base Rate will be increased from 6% to 7½% per annum.

The basic interest rate for deposits will be increased from 3% to 4½% per annum.

The new rate applies also to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited



BARCLAYS

Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, EC3P 3AH Reg. No. 4835, 92088 and 1026167.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Dresdner Bank ahead but margins pressed

From Peter Norman

Born, Dec 1
Dresdner Bank operating profits rose by about 10 per cent in the first 10 months of this year, Herr Helmut Haesgen, the Bank's executive board spokesman, said.

At a press conference in Düsseldorf, he indicated that the cash dividend for 1977 will be reduced from the 20 per cent paid for last year to take account of the changes in West German corporation tax.

But the cut is likely to be small to avoid putting the Bank's shareholders resident outside West Germany at too great a disadvantage.

Dresdner Bank's interim figures for the first 10 months of this year show a slower growth in regular earnings than Deutsche Bank's figures.

Because of a squeeze on margins, the surplus of interest received over interest paid increased by only 6 per cent to DM1,160m despite a 14 per cent rise in the average volume of business.

The surplus from charging commission on service transactions increased fractionally to DM347m from DM344.6m.

Woolworth record

F. W. Woolworth Company of America, reports that sales for the four weeks ended November 22 totalled \$453.3m, an increase of 6.3 per cent over sales of \$426.6m last year. For the 43 weeks ended November 22, sales increased 6.7 per cent to \$4,200m from \$3,900m. These are records for both periods.

Thyssen payment

Thyssen Industrie AG, the West German steel and engineering group which includes the former Rheinstahl, should be paid a dividend of 1.50 Deutsche Mark (about £14.8m) compared with DM48.3m to its parent, Thyssen AG for its 1976-77 year, says the chairman, Herr Wolfgang Schaefers. Turnover was DM4,300m against DM4,400m of which the export share was 35.7 per cent against 31.8 per cent. Incoming orders were DM4,000m compared with DM3,800m. There is an order backlog of DM2,700m compared with DM2,900m.

Thyssen AG holds around 90 per cent of Thyssen Industrie's DM470m capital. The 10 per cent minority shareholders will receive a guaranteed 60 per cent of Thyssen AG's expected

DM5.50 1976-77 dividend as agreed under the Thyssen share offer for Rheinstahl, a spokesman said.

Westralian Sands

Westralian Sands of Australia has issued 28.6m 10 cent per share to Tioxide Australia at 20 cents a share after shareholder approval. The issue gives Tioxide a 40 per cent holding in Westralian Sands. Tioxide's holding company in Britain is Tioxide Group, 44 per cent of which is owned by Imperial Chemical Industries, 44 per cent by Lead Industries Group and 12 per cent by Federated Chemical Holdings.

Westralian Sands also receive

from Tioxide its interests in two Western Australian mineral sands companies and long-term ilmenite contracts.

Total Kenya

Total Kenya, a subsidiary of Compagnie Francaise des Perrières, has started drilling operations off the coast of Kenya. The company acts as operator for an association of the two French oil groups CFP (Total) (70 per cent) and Société Nationale Elf Aquitaine (30 per cent). The offshore well has been named "Simba-1" and is located off Mombasa, in 292 metre-deep water.

Carter Hawley boost

Carter Hawley Hale Stores of Los Angeles, which sold its stake in the House of Fraser to Londoners, says that sales for the four weeks ended November 26 were \$151.8m (about £84.3m), an increase of 12.2 per cent from \$135.3m in November 1976. Sales for the first 10 months of this year were \$1,100m, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the \$1,000m for the same period of 1976.

Credit Suisse sale

Credit Suisse has sold its controlling interest in the Swiss store group, Jelmoli, for 300m francs (about £73m), which the bank said would help swell its reserves that had been depleted by the activities of its branch at Chiasso. The bank said that it sold its interest in Jelmoli, amounting to about 50 per cent, to the Basel-based holding company UIC AG, £1,600 per share. Jelmoli has 350,000 shares outstanding at the close of the Zurich Stock Exchange yesterday.

Fruehauf of US has over 44 pc of Crane's capital

Briefly

new motor syndicate. Syndicate is called Tudor Motor Policies and will write fleet business with an expected initial premium capacity of over £1m.

HALLAM PREFERENCE
Board announces that preference dividend for last year to December 31 will not be paid.

ALLIED PLANT

Resolutions passed for sale of two projects and Resonics (Excellence), as well as resolutions to buy Malcolms West Plant, one-third interest in F. & F. White and 79 Beverley Road, Hull, which incorporated issue of 1m shares in part payment. Resolutions for cancellation of 4m shares also passed.

On Wednesday, Mr G. F. Muller, the Fruehauf president, met shop stewards representing all Crane's manufacturing locations to talk over the implications of the bid situation.

After the meeting the shop stewards, in a statement, said they were "impressed by what Mr Muller had to say regarding future job-security of Crane Fruehauf employees and the future prospects of the company should Fruehauf be successful in their takeover bid".

ERGO LISTING

East Hand Gold & Uranium (Ergo) has applied for a listing on the Stock Exchange, London, and expects dealings to begin on Monday.

LONGBOURNE-BRIT IND TEA

Acceptances received in rights issue amount to some £9.5 million, or 1.7m shares offered.

EDINBURGH & DUNDEE

Board undismayed by British Rail Pensions Fund's claims of

over 50 per cent acceptances.

Shareholders advised to no

nothing, as they will not be

locked in as a minority unless offer goes unconditional.

DE LA RUE ACCEPTANCERS

Acceptances received in rights issue amount to some £9.5 million, or 1.7m shares offered.

EDINBURGH & DUNDEE

Board undismayed by British

Rail Pensions Fund's claims of

over 50 per cent acceptances.

Shareholders advised to no

nothing, as they will not be

locked in as a minority unless offer goes unconditional.

TELE SALES

GERMAN & ENGLISH

We require experienced bi-lingual Telephone Sales Person to research English and German consumer market—knowledge of computers essential. This is a new appointment and salary is negotiable for the right person.

Essential qualities include engag-

ing personality and good telephone manner.

Telephone 01-91441134 for appointment (reverse charges) Monday to Friday.

RECEPTIONIST

For busy Harley Street Practice to start as soon as possible. Some early training, and valuable experience an advantage. Hours 9.30am-5pm, salary around £2,700-£3,000.

PHONE 488-7437

GRADUATE OFFICER

ASSISTANT to pay her Paddington.

Good knowledge of English.

Call Graduate Staff Agency 01-734 0735 or 01-507 5022.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W1.

Graduate Staff Agency, 2nd Floor, 200

Regent Street, London W



To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel:

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

01-877 3311

APPOINTMENTS

01-278 9161

PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS

01-278 9231

PERSONAL TRADE

01-278 9351

MANCHESTER OFFICE

061-834 1234

Querries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel:

Classified Querries Dept.

01-837 1234, Ext. 7180

Appointments Vacancies

Business to Business

Charitable G.H.C. Tenders

Domestic and Catering

Educational

Entertainments

Financial

Legal Notices

Parliamentary Notices

Property

Secular and Non-Secular

Situations Wanted

Small Ads.

Newspaper House, Sensors

Group Rates

London WC1X 8Z

Advertisements in copy (except for printed advertisements)

01-837 1234, Ext. 7180

For the Classified Querries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Querries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

... for the word of God is indeed pure and sharper than any two-edged sword and is a discerner of the thoughts of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

BIRTHS

BROOKES.—In Nov. 26, 1977, at St. John's Church, 10 Jeane Street, with Rev. Canon J. James Andrew, vicar of St. James' Andrew, in Alison and Bill, and Graham and Rev. Canon Alexander.

CHESTER.—On November 30th, at Hexham Hospital, Northumberland, Michael and Victoria.

COX.—In Nov. 26, 1977, at St. John's Hospital, Liverpool.

DUNN.—In Nov. 26, 1977, at St. John's Hospital, Liverpool.

FERGUSON.—On November 27th, at St. John's Hospital, Liverpool.

HARRIS.—In Nov. 27th, at St. John's Hospital, Liverpool.